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Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFO's — Parliamentary Questions and Enquiries

Reference: (Prefix and Number): D/Sec(AS)64/4

Part: D

UNCLASSIFIED — UNCLASSIFIED

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): ~~RESTRICTED~~ — ~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date of last enclosure: 23 OCTOBER 1997

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

~~Destroy after _____ years~~ ☐

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after 10 years ☐

~~No recommendation~~ FOR PERMANENT RETENTION ☐

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R. ☐

b. (i) To be retained ~~until the end of the year~~ indefinately for the following reason(s):

	✓		✓	
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY - OPERATIONS	☐	
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐	
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐	Public Interest
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☑	For Permanent retention by agreement with The National Archives

PPQ = 100

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐

Considered by DR for permanent preservation ☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation. ☑

PART 3. BR[redacted]elow C2/equivalent)

Signature: [redacted]

Name: [redacted] (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 28/6/04

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Produced by MOD, DSDA(PC) KY Tel. 0117 9376256

MOD Form 174D

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 26

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS)6414 PT D

Enclosure Jacket No. 11

DATE OPENED 23.10.97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

PQs: 08761/08771/08781/08791

LORD HILL-NORTON.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

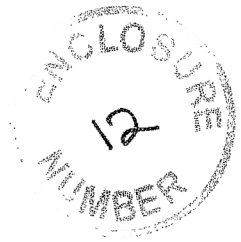
Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
23/10/97	Parliamentary Ques	LORDS PQs 0876i/0877i/0878i/0879i	[ ]

Sent: 23/10/97 at 12:29
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC:

Ref: 1400
Subject: LORDS PQs 0876i/0877i/0878i/0879i

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by Martin Fuller and Section 40 [redacted].
Annexes A-D referred to in the background note will be walked down separately to the Parliamentary Branch.

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0876i/PQ 0877i/PQ 0878i/ PQ 0879i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC(AS)2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	D NUC POL SEC(AS)1 DPO(RAF)

QUESTION

PQ 0876i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned. [14th October]

ANSWER: MOD has no information concerning the alleged suicide. Investigations into such occurrences are carried out by the US Forces.

PQ 0877i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980. [14th October]

ANSWER: Information on medical matters relating to US personnel is a matter for the US authorities.

PQ 0878i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true. [14th October]

ANSWER: It is the policy of this and previous Governments neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either in the past or present.

PQ 0879i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken. [14th October]

ANSWER: There is no evidence to suggest that my Department received any such reports.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 : TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 : TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : Grade 7

AUTHORISED BY : Mr M J D Fuller: TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : SCS

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs". He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologists" causes.

2. All four PQs are linked to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in Dec 80. In summary, on the nights of 27-29 Dec unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, Lt Col Charles Halt, outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest. Lt Col Halt raised a memo to the RAF Liaison Officer at Bentwaters (copy attached at ANNEX A) some two weeks later which simply recorded events as he saw them and made no recommendation for further action. Nearly 17 years on, we can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This is the Department's only interest in reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings.

3. The Rendlesham Forest incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, as far as can be determined from the files at the time in question, nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which casts doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

4. Lord Hill-Norton tabled two PQs on this subject in August (Official Report 14 Oct 97, WA 169 - copy at ANNEX B). He was unhappy with the replies given and wrote to say so in September (DP3842/97 - copy attached at ANNEX C). Lord Hill-Norton's letter said that he was putting together a dossier on this subject and these questions are likely to be part of that work.

5. <u>PQs 0876i/0877i</u>. We believe Lord Hill-Norton may be trying to establish whether USAF personnel serving at the bases at the time suffered any mental or physical side-effects following the alleged events.

(a) 0876i - MOD has no detailed information concerning this alleged suicide. Under the Visiting Forces Act, the US Authorities have the right to investigate such occurrences and a UK coroner cannot undertake an inquest in relation to a member of the US visiting force unless directed by a Secretary of State. There is no record of any such action being taken in this case.

(b) 0877i - MOD has no information on medical matters relating to US personnel. The US Air Force is unable to release medical information relating to its personnel without their specific authority or that of their next of kin.

6. PQ 0878i. Whether or not nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and/or RAF Woodbridge at the time in question is not a matter for public discussion. [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]. It is the Department's policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either in the past or present under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (ANNEX D). [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]. We understand that the book mentioned by Lord Hill-Norton was written by Larry Warren (who was at the time serving with the USAF and allegedly witnessed the incident).

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 11

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0876i/PQ 0877i/PQ 0878i/ PQ 0879i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS) 2
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	D Nuc Pol hard copy - SEC(AS) 1 DPO(RAF) Emailed to these.

QUESTION

PQ 0876i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned. [14th October]

ANSWER: MOD has no information concerning the alleged suicide. Investigations into such occurrences are carried out by the US ~~Visiting~~ Forces ~~under the powers conferred on them by the Visiting Forces Act~~.

PQ 0877i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980. [14th October]

ANSWER: Information on medical matters relating to US ~~Visiting Forces~~ personnel is a matter for the US authorities.

PQ 0878i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true. [14th October]

ANSWER: It is the policy of this Government and previous ~~ones~~ neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either in the past or present.

PQ 0879i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken. [14th October]

ANSWER: There is no evidence to suggest that my Department received any such reports.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 : Section 23/10/97 TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 : Section 40 TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : Grade 7

AUTHORISED BY : Mr M J D Fuller: TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : SCS Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs". He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologists" causes.

2. All four PQs are linked to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in Dec 80. In summary, on the nights of 27-29 Dec unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, Lt Col Charles Halt, outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest. Lt Col Halt raised a memo to the RAF Liaison Officer at Bentwaters (copy attached at ANNEX A) some two weeks later which simply recorded events as he saw them and made no recommendation for further action. Nearly 17 years on, we can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This is the Department's only interest in reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings.

3. The Rendlesham Forest incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, as far as can be determined from the files at the time in question, nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which casts doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

4. Lord Hill-Norton tabled two PQs on this subject in August (Official Report 14 Oct 97, WA 169 - copy at ANNEX B). He was unhappy with the replies given and wrote to say so in September (DP3842/97 - copy attached at ANNEX C). Lord Hill-Norton's letter said that he was putting together a dossier on this subject and these questions are likely to be part of that work.

5. PQs 0876i/0877i. ~~Relate to medical issues involving USAF personnel serving at RAF Bentwaters/RAF Woodbridge at the time~~. We believe Lord Hill-Norton may be trying to establish whether USAF personnel serving at the bases at the time suffered any mental or physical side-effects following the alleged events. ~~Sec(AS)1, who have lead responsibility for US Visiting Forces matters have advised that:~~

(a) 0876i - MOD has no detailed information concerning this alleged suicide. Under the Visiting Forces Act, the US Authorities have the right to investigate such occurrences and a UK coroner cannot undertake an inquest in relation to a member of the US visiting force unless

specifically directed to do so by the Secretary of State for Defence. There is no record of any such action being taken in this case.

(b) 0877i - MOD has no information on medical matters relating to USAF personnel as this would be a matter for the US Authorities. The US Air Force is unable to release medical information relating to its personnel without their specific authority or that of their next of kin.

6. PO 0878i. Whether or not nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and/or RAF Woodbridge at the time in question is not a matter for public discussion. [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]. It is the Department's policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either in the past or present under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (ANNEX D). [redacted] Section 26 [redacted] We understand that the book mentioned by Lord Hill-Norton was written by Larry Warren (who was at the time serving with the USAF and allegedly witnessed the incident).

7. PO 0879i. There is no evidence to suggest any such reports were received by the Department at the time or subsequently.

ANNEX A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

ANNEX B

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt: Memorandum

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not; and

How the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13 January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest.

Lord Gilbert: The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MoD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance, no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Joint Services Command and Staff College

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the site at Camberley, in favour of which the Greenwich site was rejected for the JSCSC, is to be cleared of asbestos, and, if so, at what cost; why was the presence of asbestos not ascertained before plans to move the JSCSC there were finalised and then changed; and what plans do the Ministry of Defence have for the Camberley site once it has been cleared of asbestos; and

Why, given that the consultation document on the future location of the JSCSC that was issued in January 1995 did not address the possibility of setting the college up on a greenfield site, there has been no consultation on the Shrivenham option; and

What is the anticipated total cost of the interim accommodation for the JSCSC until the work on Shrivenham is completed, and what date is being required for completion; and

Whether the anticipated overall cost to the taxpayer of the PFI scheme currently being considered for the new site of the JSCSC will be declared to Parliament; and

Further to the Written Answers by Lord Gilbert on 21 July *(WA 147–148)* on the future of the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), whether apart from the provision of married accommodation, the Greenwich site would be at least £200 million cheaper than accommodation at the proposed greenfield site at Shrivenham; and whether the cost of the Shrivenham site is expected to be around £500 million.

Lord Gilbert: I am advised that the asbestos identified at the Camberley site presents no threat to health if left undisturbed. Its removal would be required if buildings were to be demolished, which was the case when the JSCSC was to have been based at Camberley. At that stage it was estimated that survey and removal together would cost no more than £87K. The presence of asbestos was not the reason for exploring a PFI solution for the JSCSC. Until a decision is reached on the future use of the Camberley site, it is not clear whether action will be needed to deal with the asbestos. It remains our intention to identify a fitting and appropriate military use for the historic Staff College building at Camberley and work is currently under way to this end.

Although the January 1995 Consultative Document did not consider greenfield sites for the permanent JSCSC, for the reasons given in paragraph 9 of the Document, the two further Consultative Documents of March 1996 and July 1996 indicated, inter alia, that interim arrangements would last for two years, that proposals for the permanent site would be dealt with separately, and that work in hand "to determine the best way of providing (a permanent JSCSC), on a site yet to be identified, includes a development under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements". Since then, the trades unions have been informed of the choice of a PFI Preferred Bidder and provided with extracts from the Invitation To Negotiate which are currently under discussion. In accordance with normal procedures, staff will be consulted again, after a contract has been placed, about the possible transfer arrangements for civilian staff working at interim sites.

The anticipated total cost of the JSCSC in its interim accommodation is approximately £70 million over the period 1996–97 to 1999–2000. The required completion date for the permanent JSCSC, as given in the published Statement of Requirement, is September 1999.

The estimated total, undiscounted and VAT inclusive, cost of the PFI contract over a 30-year period is approximately £500 million at current prices. This information was widely reported at the time of the announcement of the Preferred Bidder, and given out in another place on 26 February in response to a specific question. This estimate excludes the ongoing costs of MoD-provided teaching and directing staff of around £10 million per annum.

The last time that Greenwich costs were subjected to formal assessment was around the end of 1994. The results of this assessment were published in the Consultative Document of January 1995. These showed the Greenwich option, leaving aside the cost of providing the necessary married accommodation, to be more than 25 per cent. more expensive than the Camberley option. There is no evidence to suggest that, if the costs of the Greenwich option were revisited, they would prove anything other than significantly more expensive than both the Camberley option and the Preferred Shrivenham Bid submitted in the course of the PFI competition.

ANNEX C

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 071-21 Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
071-21 89000 (Switchboard)

Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

From: THE RT HON DR THE LORD GILBERT

D/Min(DP)/JWG/MP/3842/97/M

16 October 1997

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that this Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980. Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude, therefore, that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still, the case, that MOD does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Section 40 [redacted]

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

dppsMb39/pe/3842hillno/an/cs

ANNEX D

ANNEX B

Code of Practice on Access to Government Information

Reasons for Confidentiality
The following categories of information are exempt from the commitments to provide information in this Code. In those categories which refer to harm or prejudice, the presumption remains that information should be disclosed unless the harm likely to arise from disclosure would outweigh the public interest in making the information available.

References to harm or prejudice include both actual harm or prejudice and risk or reasonable expectation of harm or prejudice. In such cases it should be considered whether any harm or prejudice arising from disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in making information available.

The exemptions will not be interpreted in a way which causes injustice to individuals.

More detailed guidance on exemptions can be obtained from OMD14, who will consult PL(LS)Legal as appropriate.

1. **Defence, security and international relations:**

   a. Information whose disclosure would harm national security or defence.

   b. Information whose disclosure would harm the conduct of international relations or affairs.

   c. Information received in confidence from foreign governments, foreign courts or international organizations.

2. **Internal discussion and advice:**
Information whose disclosure would harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion, including:

   a. proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees;

   b. internal opinion, advice, recommendation, consultation and deliberation;

   c. projections and assumptions relating to internal policy analysis; analysis of alternative policy options and information relating to rejected policy options;

   d. confidential communications between Departments, public bodies and regulatory bodies.

64/46 ENCLOSURE NUMBER 10

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
23/10/97	SEC(AS)1B (1)	RE: LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 23/10/97 at 9:15 Delivered: 23/10/97 at 9:15
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 897
From: SEC(AS)1B (1) Auth by:
Subject: RE: LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE

Text: As requested, the following should be inserted for the answer to PQ 0876i; "MOD has no information concerning the alleged suicide. Investigations into such occurrences are carried out by US Visiting Forces under the powers conferred on them by the Visiting Forces Act." This has been cleared by Section 40, Sec(AS)1.

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [ ]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 9

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
22/10/97	SEC(AS)1B (1)	LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF	[ ]

Sent: 22/10/97 at 16:59
To: SEC(AS)1B (1),D Nuc AR
CC:

Ref: 1397
Subject: LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE

Text: Section 40

Sorry but these haven't quite been put to bed yet. Grateful for your further assistance.

Section 40

Priority: Urgent | View Acknowledge [*] | Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] | Delivery Acknowledge [*] | Codes [ ]

AD Nuc Pol (AR)

Section 40 's comments are written on in pen.

Section 26

Section 40 has signed up to our line subject to the amendments he has given me over the page

Section 40 23/10.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Oct 97

AD Nuc Pol(AR)
Sec(AS)1

LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE

1. Thank you for your comments on the draft PQ answers and background note circulated with my minute of even reference this morning.

2. Before signing off the PQs, Head of Sec(AS) has suggested some small changes and asked for a little more detail about the UK/US Treaty. The changes, and the extra detail required, have been made in bold type and annotated for action to the lead branch on the attachment to this note.

3. Your advice, input, and confirmation that you are content with the draft answers and background note by **1100 hrs Thu 23 Oct** please would again be much appreciated.

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0876i/PQ 0877i/PQ 0878i/ PQ 0879i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

****
D R A F T
****

QUESTION

PQ 0876i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned. [14th October]

ANSWER: My Department has no information about any such event. *[Sec(AS)1]*

PQ 0877i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980. [14th October]

ANSWER: Information on medical matters relating to US Visiting Forces personnel is a matter for the US authorities.

PQ 0878i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true. [14th October]

ANSWER: [redacted] Section 26

As to the specific location of nuclear weapons in the UK, it is the policy of this Government and previous ones neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either in the past or present.

[AD Nuc Pol(AR)]

PQ 0879i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken. [14th October]

ANSWER: There is no evidence to suggest that my Department received any such reports.

****
D R A F T
****

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs". He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologists" causes.

2. All four PQs are linked to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in Dec 80. In summary, on the nights of 27-29 Dec unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, Lt Col Charles Halt, outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest. Lt Col Halt raised a memo to the RAF Liaison Officer at Bentwaters (copy attached at ANNEX A) some two weeks later which simply recorded events as he saw them and made no recommendation for further action. Nearly 17 years on, we can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This is the Departments only interest in reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings.

3. The Rendlesham Forest incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, as far as can be determined from the files at the time in question, nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which casts doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

4. Lord Hill-Norton tabled two PQs on this subject in August (Official Report 14 Oct 97, WA 169 - copy at ANNEX B). He was unhappy with the replies given and wrote to say so in September (DP3842/97 - copy attached at ANNEX C). Lord Hill-Norton's letter said that he was putting together a dossier on this subject and these questions are likely to be part of that work.

5. PQs 0876i/0877i. Relate to medical issues involving USAF personnel serving at RAF Bentwaters/RAF Woodbridge at the time. We believe Lord Hill-Norton may be trying to establish whether USAF personnel serving at the bases at the time suffered any mental or physical side-effects following the alleged events. Sec(AS)1, who have lead responsibility for US Visiting Forces matters have advised that:

(a) 0876i - MOD has no detailed information concerning this alleged suicide. Under the Visiting Forces Act, the US Authorities have the right to investigate such occurrences and a UK coroner cannot undertake an inquest in relation to a member of the US visiting force unless specifically directed to do so by the Secretary of State for Defence. There is no record of any such action being taken in this case.

(b) 0877i - MOD has no information on medical matters relating to USVF personnel as this would be a matter for the US Authorities. The US Air Force is unable to release medical information relating to its personnel without their specific authority or that of their next of kin.

6. PQ 0878i. Whether or not nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and/or RAF Woodbridge at the time in question is not a matter for public discussion. [redacted] Section 26 [redacted] *[AD Nuc Pol(AR)]*. It is the Department's policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either in the past or present under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (ANNEX D). [redacted] Section 26 [redacted] We understand that the book mentioned by Lord Hill-Norton was written by Larry Warren (who was at the time serving with the USAF and allegedly witnessed the incident).

7. PQ 0879i. There is no evidence to suggest any such reports were received by the Department at the time or subsequently.

[redacted] Section 26 [redacted]

8

22 Oct 97

Section 40 [redacted] AD (Nuc/Pol) (AR)

called [redacted]

He believes Sec(AS) would have been the home for these in the past.

Would like us to remove [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]

He's since checked with the Air Historic Branch who believe Bent/Woodbridge had a collection of A10, helios + SAR a/c [redacted] Section 26 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] believes we would need to go into much greater depth

before making a Definitive
statement to Ministers, he also
believes we can get around
them at the stage by the way
we have chosen to frame the
PQ. IF LHN does to
ask a direct question down the
line we can go into it then in
an appropriate kind of depth.

Section 40

[redacted]

20/10.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Oct 97

D Nuc NAR 1
Sec(AS)1 — Section 40 [redacted] confirmed they are content with our proposed line Section 40 [redacted] 14 Oct 97 22/10

LORD HILL-NORTON PQs - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE

1. Thank you for your input for the above PQs.

2. I attach our proposed draft replies and background note and should be grateful to know, by **COP today** please, that you are content.

3. D Nuc NAR1 - Please clarify your original advice about Section 26 [redacted] at RAF Bentwaters - para 6 of the background note refers.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0876i/PQ 0877i/PQ 0878i/ PQ 0879i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

****
D R A F T
****

QUESTION

PQ 0876i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned. [14th October]

ANSWER: ~~None.~~ My Department has no information about any such event

PQ 0877i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980. [14th October]

ANSWER: Information on medical matters relating to US Visiting Forces personnel is a matter for the US authorities.

PQ 0878i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true. [14th October]

ANSWER: It ~~is not~~ my Department's ~~policy to comment~~ on allegations ~~made in~~ unofficial publications.

[redacted]
Section 26
[redacted]

As before the location of nuclear weapons in the UK, it is the policy of this Government and was the policy of previous [illegible]

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

PQ 0879i - The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken. [14th October]

ANSWER: There is no evidence to suggest that my Department received any such reports.

****
D R A F T
****

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs". He was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologists" causes.

2. All four PQs are linked to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in Dec 80. In summary, on the nights of 27-29 Dec unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters, Lt Col Charles Halt, outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest. Lt Col Halt raised a memo to the RAF Liaison Officer at Bentwaters (copy attached at ANNEX A) some two weeks later which simply recorded events as he saw them and made no recommendation for further action. Nearly 17 years on, we can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This is the Departments only interest in reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings.

3. The Rendlesham Forest incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, as far as can be determined from the files at the time in question, nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which casts doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

4. Lord Hill-Norton tabled two PQs on this subject in August (Official Report 14 Oct 97, WA 169 - copy at ANNEX B). He was unhappy with the replies given and wrote to say so in September (DP3842/97 - copy attached at ANNEX C). Lord Hill-Norton's letter said that he was putting together a dossier on this subject and these questions are likely to be part of that work.

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

5. POs 0876i/0877i. Relate to medical issues involving USAF personnel serving at RAF Bentwaters/RAF Woodbridge at the time. We believe Lord Hill-Norton may be trying to establish whether USAF personnel serving at the bases at the time suffered any mental or physical side-effects following the alleged events. Sec(AS)1, who have lead responsibility for US Visiting Forces matters have advised that:

(a) 0876i - MOD has no detailed information concerning this alleged suicide. Under the Visiting Forces Act, the US Authorities have the right to investigate such occurrences and a UK coroner cannot undertake an inquest in relation to a member of the US visiting force unless specifically directed to do so by the Secretary of State for Defence. There is no record of any such action being taken in this case.

(b) 0877i - MOD has no information on medical matters relating to USVF personnel as this would be a matter for the US Authorities. The US Air Force is unable to release medical information relating to its personnel without their specific authority or that of their next of kin.

6. PQ 0878i. Whether or not nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and/or RAF Woodbridge at the time in question, ~~and whether or not this might have breached UK/US Treaty~~ obligations is not a matter for public discussion. It is the Department's policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either in the past or present under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (ANNEX D).

AD Nuc Pol (AR)

[redacted] Section 26

[redacted] Section 26

Lord Hill-Norton specifically links this question to a book written by Larry Warren (who was at the time serving with the USAF and allegedly witnessed the incident). As the book is an unofficial publication, the Department would not comment on any allegations it might contain.

7. PQ 0879i. There is no evidence to suggest any such reports were received by the Department at the time or subsequently.

AD Nuc Pol

[redacted] Section 26

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
21/10/97	SEC(AS)1B (1)	LORD HILL NORTON PQs - RAF	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 21/10/97 at 10:53 Delivered: 21/10/97 at 10:53
To: SEC(AS)2A (2),D Nuc NAR1,ACSA(N)Sec
CC:
Ref: 895
From: SEC(AS)1B (1) Auth by:
Subject: LORD HILL NORTON PQs - RAF BENTWATERS

Text: Please find attached Sec(AS)1's input to the Lord Hill Norton PQs.

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/60/4

21 October 1997

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:

ACSA(N)
D Nuc NAR1
SRAFLO

LORDS PQs: LORD HILL NORTON - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE 1980

1. Thank you for your minute reference D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 17 October, which asked for inputs to the four Lords PQs tabled by The Lord Hill-Norton which had as their theme the alleged UFO incident at Rendlesham Forest. My comments are confined to questions **0876i** and **0877i**. I assume other addressees of your minute will comment on the nuclear angle.

2. **Question 0876i**

MOD has no detailed information concerning this alleged suicide. Under the Visiting Forces Act, the US Authorities have the right to investigate such occurrences and a UK coroner cannot undertake an inquest in relation to a member of the US visiting force unless specifically directed to do so by the Secretary of State for Defence. There is no record of any such action being taken in this case.

Question 0877i

MOD has no information on medical matters relating to USVF personnel as this is a matter for the US Authorities. The US Air Force is unable to release medical information relating to its personnel without their specific authority or that of their next of kin. It is also likely, that given the passage of time any medical records relating to this alleged suicide are likely to have been destroyed.

3. I hope this is helpful.

{signed}
Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)1
MB7247 Section 40 MB

Section 40 UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 6

Mon 20 Oct, 1997 17:24 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
20/10/97	D Nuc NAR1	Lord Hill-Norton PQs	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 20/10/97 at 16:44 Delivered: 20/10/97 at 16:56
To: SEC(AS)2
CC: ACSA(N)Sec
Ref: 434
From: D Nuc NAR1 Auth by:
Subject: Lord Hill-Norton PQs

Text: Attached is some advice, as requested on 0878i and 0879i

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

Section 40 UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

0878i (RESTRICTED)

UNCLASSIFIED

Section 26

[redacted]

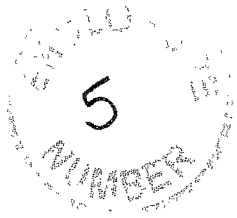
Under the provisions of exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, your line that "it is not the Department's policy to either confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either past or present" would be appropriate.

0879i

We have nothing at all to offer on this question.

UNCLASSIFIED

64/4



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

17 Oct 97

ACSA(N)
D Nuc NAR1
Sec(AS)1

LORDS PQs: LORD HILL NORTON - RAF BENTWATERS/RAF WOODBRIDGE 1980

1. We have the following four Lords PQs for written answer:

0876i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned.

0877i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980.

0878i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true.

0879i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken.

2. Lord Hill Norton (ex CDS and a one time member of the now defunct House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group) has already this year tabled two PQs and a PE about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in Dec 80. For those of you unfamiliar with the saga, on the nights of 27-29 Dec 80 unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Charles Halt, outside RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest. Lt Col Halt sent a memo to the RAF Commander (copy attached at ANNEX A) some two weeks after the incident in which he simply recorded the events as he saw them and made no

recommendation for further action. From this point in time, we can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

3. Although these events occurred nearly 17 years ago, it has been adopted by the "UFO" fraternity as a cause celebre and the biggest "UFO" incident to have ever occurred in the United Kingdom. Over the years increasingly more extraordinary claims have been associated with these events.

4. The PQs are not the first time efforts have been made to imply that either USAF personnel saw a "UFO" outside a "sensitive" military base, or that they were hallucinating, which would of been of equal concern. In actual fact there was probably a rational but not immediately obvious explanation at the time.

5. Whilst it is not our aim to provide detailed answers to the PQs we will, nevertheless, need to provide as much information as possible in the background note to reassure Ministers that there is nothing to investigate now which was not satisfactorily dealt with at the time.

6. Taking each PQ in turn:

0876i/0877i: Whilst the medical health of UK-based USAF personnel is a matter for the US Government, I should nevertheless be grateful if **Sec(AS)1** could let me have as much background information as they are able to obtain on these particular issues.

0878i: *Left at East Gate* was written by Larry Warren, an ex USAF airman, who from subsequent magazine articles etc, it would appear was part of the patrol that night. It would be our intention to say simply that the views contained in the book are the personal opinions of the author and as such the Department would not comment. However, I should be grateful if **ACSA(N)/D Nuc NAR1** could provide background information (classified as necessary) detailing whether anything stored at these bases was in breach of the treaty obligations. It may be, however, that you would also wish us to say something along the lines of "It is not the Department's policy to either confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either past or present." Please let me know.

0879i: From the papers on the file relating to the period in question there is nothing to suggest an incident as described by Lord Hill Norton. Grateful, however, if **all addressees** could consider whether they have anything to offer for the background note.

7. It would be my intention to circulate the background note and draft reply for clearance. In order to do this and meet the deadline for reply, I should be grateful for responses no later than **MIDDAY TUE 21 OCTOBER** please.

pp [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 [redacted]

Annex:

A. Halt Memo dated 13 Jan 81.

ANNEX A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^0 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN 1997	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0876i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs (DCI To Be Confirmed).

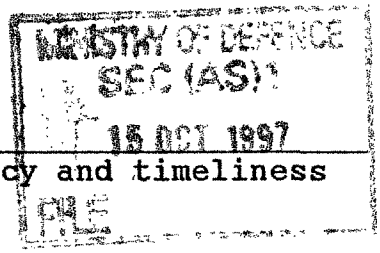
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.

- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.

- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981, and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned. [14th October]



REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness

of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs are set out in (DCI To Be Confirmed) and can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN 1997	:	12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0877i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

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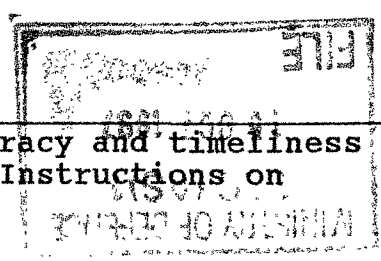

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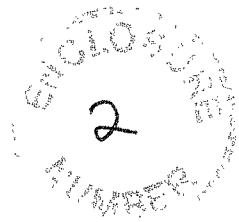
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:



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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	12:00 ON THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 1997
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0878i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	ACSA(N), D NUC NAR 1

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs (DCI To Be Confirmed).

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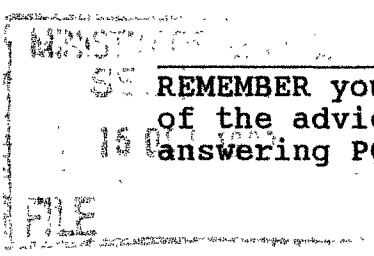
QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the allegations contained in the recently published book Left at East Gate, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true. [14th October]



REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs are set out in (DCI To Be Confirmed) and can be

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN OCOTBER 1997	:	**12:00 ON THURSDAY 23 RD**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0879i
PQ TYPE	:	Lord's Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	ACSA(N), D NUC NAR 1

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs (DCI To Be Confirmed).**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25th-30th December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken. [14th October]

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt: Memorandum

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not; and

How the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13 January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest.

Lord Gilbert: The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MoD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance, no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Joint Services Command and Staff College

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the site at Camberley, in favour of which the Greenwich site was rejected for the JSCSC, is to be cleared of asbestos, and, if so, at what cost; why was the presence of asbestos not ascertained before plans to move the JSCSC there were finalised and then changed; and what plans do the Ministry of Defence have for the Camberley site once it has been cleared of asbestos; and

Why, given that the consultation document on the future location of the JSCSC that was issued in January 1995 did not address the possibility of setting the college up on a greenfield site, there has been no consultation on the Shrivenham option; and

What is the anticipated total cost of the interim accommodation for the JSCSC until the work on Shrivenham is completed, and what date is being required for completion; and

Whether the anticipated overall cost to the taxpayer of the PFI scheme currently being considered for the new site of the JSCSC will be declared to Parliament; and

Further to the Written Answers by Lord Gilbert on 21 July *(WA 147–148)* on the future of the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), whether apart from the provision of married accommodation, the Greenwich site would be at least £200 million cheaper than accommodation at the proposed greenfield site at Shrivenham; and whether the cost of the Shrivenham site is expected to be around £500 million.

Lord Gilbert: I am advised that the asbestos identified at the Camberley site presents no threat to health if left undisturbed. Its removal would be required if buildings were to be demolished, which was the case when the JSCSC was to have been based at Camberley. At that stage it was estimated that survey and removal together would cost no more than £87K. The presence of asbestos was not the reason for exploring a PFI solution for the JSCSC. Until a decision is reached on the future use of the Camberley site, it is not clear whether action will be needed to deal with the asbestos. It remains our intention to identify a fitting and appropriate military use for the historic Staff College building at Camberley and work is currently under way to this end.

Although the January 1995 Consultative Document did not consider greenfield sites for the permanent JSCSC, for the reasons given in paragraph 9 of the Document, the two further Consultative Documents of March 1996 and July 1996 indicated, inter alia, that interim arrangements would last for two years, that proposals for the permanent site would be dealt with separately, and that work in hand "to determine the best way of providing (a permanent JSCSC), on a site yet to be identified, includes a development under Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements". Since then, the trades unions have been informed of the choice of a PFI Preferred Bidder and provided with extracts from the Invitation To Negotiate which are currently under discussion. In accordance with normal procedures, staff will be consulted again, after a contract has been placed, about the possible transfer arrangements for civilian staff working at interim sites.

The anticipated total cost of the JSCSC in its interim accommodation is approximately £70 million over the period 1996–97 to 1999–2000. The required completion date for the permanent JSCSC, as given in the published Statement of Requirement, is September 1999.

The estimated total, undiscounted and VAT inclusive, cost of the PFI contract over a 30-year period is approximately £500 million at current prices. This information was widely reported at the time of the announcement of the Preferred Bidder, and given out in another place on 26 February in response to a specific question. This estimate excludes the ongoing costs of MoD-provided teaching and directing staff of around £10 million per annum.

The last time that Greenwich costs were subjected to formal assessment was around the end of 1994. The results of this assessment were published in the Consultative Document of January 1995. These showed the Greenwich option, leaving aside the cost of providing the necessary married accommodation, to be more than 25 per cent. more expensive than the Camberley option. There is no evidence to suggest that, if the costs of the Greenwich option were revisited, they would prove anything other than significantly more expensive than both the Camberley option and the Preferred Shrivenham Bid submitted in the course of the PFI competition.

64/4

Collision Warning System for Fast Jet Aircraft

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

What progress is being made with development and production of a Collision Warning System for RAF fast jet aircraft.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Gilbert): A Technology Demonstration Programme (TDP) was completed at DTEO Boscombe Down last year. The TDP concluded that a Collision Warning System based on aircraft Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems would be technically feasible in the low-level fast-jet environment. MoD is now considering the way forward. No decisions have yet been taken.

✱ Helicopters and Military Aircraft: Collision Risks

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

What action is being taken to minimise the risk of collision between helicopters conducting pipe and powerline surveys and low flying military aircraft; and

Whether consideration has been given to affording protected airspace to helicopters operating under the Pipeline Inspection Notification System.

Lord Gilbert: On 18 August measures were introduced to improve the accuracy of Pipeline Inspection Notification System (PINS) information available to military aircrew. These will include the issue of a revised map which refines the areas notified on the PINS chart to depict daily activity more accurately. Given these changes, we currently see no requirement to afford protected airspace to helicopters operating under PINS. We have a wide range of measures in place, which are kept under continuous review, to minimise the risk of confliction between civil and military aircraft, including those conducting power and pipeline inspections.

Commercial Helicopter Air Proximity Reports

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many air proximity reports were filed by commercial helicopter operators in areas for which a CANP notification had been submitted between September 1996 and April 1997.

Lord Gilbert: None.

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many air proximity reports were filed by commercial helicopter operators engaged on pipe and powerline survey inspections between September 1996 and April 1997.

Lord Gilbert: Four.

Civil Aircraft Notification: Infringements by Military Aircraft

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many notifications under the Civil Aircraft Notification procedure (CANP) from commercial helicopter operators in the United Kingdom were received by the Tactical Booking Cell at RAF West Drayton in the first six months of 1997; and

How many infringements of the CANP were reported in the first six months of 1997 and how many of these infringements were confirmed as breaches of the procedure by low flying military aircraft.

Lord Gilbert: Six hundred and sixty-three Civil Aircraft Notification Procedure (CANP) notifications were received by the MoD from commercial helicopter operators between 1 January and 30 June 1997. Twenty–five alleged infringements of CANP notification by low flying military aircraft were reported over this period, 19 of which were confirmed by RAF Police investigations. One alleged infringement was withdrawn and one was not substantiated. Four cases are still under investigation.

Lord Glenarthur asked Her Majesty's Government:

What consideration has been given to upgrading airspace covered by Civil Aircraft Notification procedure (CANP) to "prohibited" status.

Lord Gilbert: Entry into airspace surrounding commercial activity notified under CANP is already prohibited to all fixed wing military aircraft flying at low level at speeds faster than 140 knots. We believe that existing flight safety measures adequately minimise the risk of confliction between commercial flights and other categories of military aircraft activity (specifically those flying slower than 140 knots, those operating in a Military Air Traffic Zone and all helicopters); and between military low level flights and other non-commercial civil activities notified under CANP.

✱ Mid-Air Explosion, Isle of Lewis

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What was the military involvement in the search for the unidentified object that witnesses believe exploded in mid air, before crashing into the sea off the Isle of Lewis on 26 October 1996, and what liaison took place with the US authorities with regard to this incident.

Lord Gilbert: Following media reports of an explosion, initially attributed to a mid-air collision north of the Butt of Lewis, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets, but was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue. HQ US 3rd Air Force were also approached at the time. They confirmed that there had been no US military activity in the area.

P+D

MOD Form 174D

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 23

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. 10

DATE OPENED 22.10.97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: PE: US 4040/97

MP: DON FOSTER

CONST: Section 40

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Don Foster Esq MP
31 James Street West
Bath
BA1 2BT

D/US of S/JS 4040/97/P

30 October 1997

Dear Don,

Thank you for your letter of 8 October (reference: dcb/I/def) enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 [redacted], Bath, about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

By way of background I should explain that my Department examines any reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings that are sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each incident.

I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] feels that his questions have not been properly answered. From Departmental records available for the period in question my officials have established that all available information was looked at at the time by air defence experts who were satisfied that nothing had occurred to suggest that the UK Air Defence Region had been breached by unauthorized foreign military activity on the nights in question. In the absence of evidence corroborating Col Halt's memo, which was sent some two weeks after the events in 1980, and in the light of my Department's air defence remit, no action was then deemed necessary. Section 40 [redacted] questions suggest that an in-depth

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-4 NOV 1997

Recycled Paper

investigation into these events took place at the time. As I have said, no action was considered necessary, and it follows therefore, that no information exists to answer his questions. It was then, and is still the case, that my Department does not routinely contact witnesses following receipt of a report of an "unexplained" aerial sighting. As I have explained above, follow-up action is only deemed to be required if there is corroborating evidence of a matter of air defence interest.

These events of nearly 17 years ago continue to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and have been the subject of numerous books, magazine articles and media speculation. However, nothing has emerged in the intervening years to cast any doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

Finally, I should wish to assure Section 40 that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40 [redacted]

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper

UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Oct 97

Section 40 [redacted]

PE Unit
(thro [redacted])

LETTER FROM DON FOSTER MP - US 4040/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Don Foster MP. His constituent, Section 40 [redacted], has been a frequent correspondent over the last few years on the subject of the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in Dec 80.

2. As is sometimes the case with public correspondence on "UFOs", letter writers feel that the Department has not responded properly to their specific concerns because MOD's interest in reports of "unexplained" sightings in the sky is limited to ascertaining whether they represent a military threat to the UK. A number of "ufologists" are prepared to accept without question that "unexplained" lights in the sky are evidence of extraterrestrial craft/lifeforms and these beliefs are fuelled by elements of the media who seek to promote "cover-up" theories. This in turn leads to public dissatisfaction when the Department explains that to date it knows of no evidence which substantiates these alleged phenomena.

3. As the Minister will be aware, the Department continues to receive a steady stream of correspondence on this incident. In summary, a report of an incident (copy attached at ANNEX A) was sent by the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters (Lt Col Charles Halt USAF) to the RAF Liaison Officer some two weeks later. The report simply recorded events as he saw them and made no recommendation for action. Lt Col Halt's memo was looked at by the Department when it was received in Jan 81. As far as we are able to ascertain 17 years on, in the absence of any evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by foreign military activity, no further action was taken. Again, as far as can be ascertained from the files at the time, there is no evidence that Lt Col Halt was asked about these events. It was then, and remains the case, that the Department does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings unless there is evidence of a matter of defence concern.

4. Section 40 [redacted]'s letter refers to comments about radiation readings in Lt Col Halt's memo. The Rendlesham Forest incident was included in a book about "UFOs" written by a former member of Sec(AS) (Nicholas Pope) which was published last June. Mr Pope claimed that the radiation readings taken by USAF personnel at the site were unusally high. There is, however, no evidence to

UNCLASSIFIED

suggest that an analysis of the radiation readings reported at the site was undertaken at the time. We can only assume now that in view of the assessment then by the relevant air defence experts that the UK air defence region had not been compromised, no analysis of the reported readings was judged necessary. However, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], approached the Defence Radiological Protection Service for their views. Their advice was that the readings were higher than normal but that a number of explanations could account for this fact. Section 40 [redacted] enquiry was made by telephone and documented only by a handwritten file note. Section 40 [redacted]

5. For reasons that are unclear to us, Section 40 [redacted] believes that an in-depth investigation was made into the incident. This was not the case and there is, therefore, no information available to answer his questions. The draft therefore seeks once more to explain this fact.

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97). Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40 [redacted]
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

USofS/4040/97 October 1997

D R A F T

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I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] feels that his questions have not been properly answered. From Departmental records available for the period in question my officials have established that all available information was looked at at the time by air defence experts who were satisfied that nothing had occurred to suggest that the UK Air Defence Region had been breached by unauthorized foreign military activity on the nights in question. In the absence of evidence corroborating Col Halt's memo, which was sent some two weeks after the events in 1980, and in the light of my Department's air defence remit, no action was then deemed

necessary. Section 40 's questions suggest that an in-depth investigation into these events took place at the time. As I have said, no action was considered necessary, and it follows therefore that no information exists to answer his questions. It was then, and is still the case, that my Department does not routinely contact witnesses following receipt of a report of an "unexplained" aerial sighting. As I have explained above, follow-up action is only deemed to be required if there is corroborating evidence of a matter of air defence interest.

These events of nearly 17 years ago continue to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and have been the subject of numerous books, magazine articles and media speculation. However, nothing has emerged in the intervening years to cast any doubt over the conclusions drawn by the Department at the time.

Finally, I should wish to assure Section 40 that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

I hope this clarifies the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Don Foster, Esq, MP

ANNEX A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: SEC(AS)2 PE REF NUMBER: US 4049/97

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 23/10/97

DATE: 13 / 10 /97 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

********* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to** Section 40 MB
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS)1
13 OCT 1997
FILE

09 OCT 1997

USofS Secds UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th October 1997

John Spellar MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Please quote ref: dcb/I/def

Dear John,

Incident outside Brentwater Military Base, December 1980

As you will see from the enclosed, my constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Bath Section 40 has been seeking answers to question about the above incident for several years.

I will welcome advice on how best I may respond.

I look forward to hearing from you.

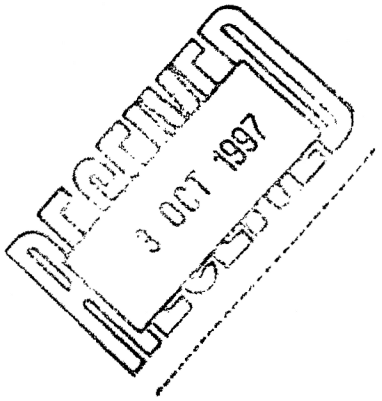
With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

DON FOSTER MP

Please reply to 31 James Street West, Bath BA1 2BT
Tel: 01225 338973 Fax: 01225 463630



Section 40
Bath
Tel: Section 40
Email: Section 40

I am inquiring to see if you can help me get answers from the M.O.D regarding incidents that happened just outside of a military facility in Dec of 1980.
The Military Base was occupied at the time by the American Airforce (81st Tactical Fighter Wing), and the name of the base was Bentwaters.

I have a statement made by the deputy base commander at the time a Lt Col Charles Halt (Document A).
The MOD standpoint was that there was no documentation but this was released through the American Freedom of Information Act in the Mid eighties to Americans also interested in the incident.

The report details a structured object that invaded the airspace outside of the military base. This occurrence was observed by Col Halt and "NUMEROUS OTHERS". As can be seen in the report the occurrence left physical traces possible RADIATION! which were measured and recorded.
Reading the report there can be no denial that an occurrence definitely happened.

I have interviewed Col Halt, and have numerous transcripts of the events of the incident. The problem I have is getting answers from the MOD to what I feel are justifiable questions about the incident in question.

After reading the Halt statement, I have repeatedly tried to get some basic questions answered by the MOD, but without much success.
On November 7th 1994. I received a reply from the MOD, detailing questions I have asked about the incident (Document B).

I then wrote back with some more questions about the still unexplained incident (Document C).

The reply dated October 30th, 1996, (Document D) was more concerned with a misquote by me in the previous letter and ignored my questions completely.

I then revised my misquote and asked the same questions in another letter (Document E).

I received a reply November 19th, 1996. (Document F)
This letter gives out a basic and standard 7 lines statement on MOD position, but STILL will not answer or acknowledge any of my questions.

The last letter I have sent to date basically asked them if they can answer my questions as I already know the MOD standpoint and did not need a renewal of this (document G).

The reply was on June 20th, 1997. (Document H)
6 lines long all it says is that they have nothing further to add to the information I have given in previous correspondence.

The problem I have with the whole situation is that I have to take the MOD's word that nothing was of defense significance occurred, I have been told an investigation occurred, but no evidence from this has been forthcoming. In fact in a statement from the MOD they said the only documentation they have on the incident is the Halt statement.
The Halt statement shows a serious incident which left traces, which was also witnessed by "Numerous individuals" and I feel that as a resident of this country I have a right to ask some very basic questions about an incident of the significance and the |MOD's role in it's investigation.
Surely during an investigation witness statements were taken and evidence gathered.

The MOD tell me that a thorough investigation was partaken, but then also say that there is only the Halt document in their files in reference to the incident, it doesn't make sense to me.

Regarding the questions, as you can see they are not questions that would put the country under any endangerment or damage. The purpose for them is for me to try and clarify the incident in question. I am not a terrorist nor am I out to harm the country in any way, But I would like my quite reasonable questions answered in a courteous manner. It almost makes me feel that they have something to hide.

Is it possible for you to help in getting answers to my questions?

Section 40

(E109) (A)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to threw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^0 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

(B)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 , Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 071 2182140
(Switchboard) 071 218 9000
(Fax)

[redacted]

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/12/3

Date
7 November 1994

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

1. Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State, which has been forwarded for reply to this office as the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for unexplained aerial phenomena, often characterized as "UFO" reports.

2. I can confirm that no new information has come to this office's attention in respect of the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. You asked at what level the decision was taken that the UK's security was not compromised that night. The decision was, quite properly, collectively reached by officers within the MOD/RAF sections with responsibility for air defence matters; their judgement was based on the available evidence. Furthermore, it is not our policy to enter into detail about the procedures the MOD adopts for making threat assessments. The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge at the time of the event, Lt Col Halt, made an official statement regarding the incident, but significantly made no recommendation that a further investigation should be carried out.

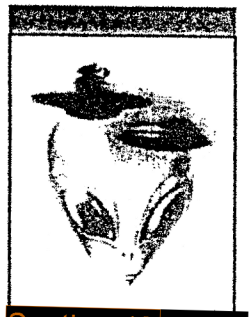
3. Nothing has subsequently emerged which has given us any reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

4. Your letter goes on to mention RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. RAF Rudloe Manor is the Headquarters of the RAF Police, which does serve as a focal point, amongst other things, for flying complaints. In the past, Rudloe Manor was the RAF coordination point for reports of unusual aerial sightings. However, once such reports were received they were simply forwarded to this office for appropriate action. Nowadays Rudloe Manor, along with other RAF stations, forward such reports directly to this office.

5. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]



Section 40

BATH, Section 40
ENGLAND
TEL: Section 40
Section 40

M.O.D,
Secreariat (Air Staff) 2A.
Main Building Whitehall.

I am writing with some questions pertaining to Unexplained aerial phenomena, often referred as UFO's.

I am hoping that you could clarify your position on the 1980 (DEC) incident between Rendlesham and Woodbridge Air bases.

In earlier letters it was mentioned that Lt Col Halt made an official statement regarding the incident and that he made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out.

Could you clarify when and how Lt Halt recommended this action as it is not mentioned in his official report?
Could you let me know when and how the M.O.D was informed of Lt Halts recommendations as they are not included in his report?

If as procedure would have it Lt Halt was debriefed by Defence Intelligence it possible to obtain any briefing notes/statements so that I may clarify this point?

Does the M.O.D have an interest or opinion in the latest revelations by Lt Halt, in which he claims there was an absolute defence threat, high level involvement, and cover-up by Defence Intelligence, or other Intelligence departments?

I was also told in a letter that "the decision was taken that the U.K's security was not compromised", are there any notes/documents that support this statement from the people who made this decision?

It was also wrote in the letter that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you please clarify this point for me :
1. If the Halt statement is the available evidence,
2. If its all the evidence.
3 or if there is other evidence that accompanies the Halt statement in any form?

Another point I feel needs to be clarified is Paragraph 1. Of the Halt statement. Lt halt uses the word "they" meaning other than him and later states "That three patrolmen proceeded on foot".

Who are the three patrolmen?, as they were the best and nearest observers to the phenomenon why were their statements of the nights occurrences not taken?
If they were is it possible to see them?

(1)

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Section 40
Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
30 October 1996

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 8 October.

2. May I first correct the misunderstanding in Paras 3 and 4 of your letter. In para 2 of my letter to you of 7 Nov 94 I said that:

> "The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge at the time of the event, Lt Col Halt, made an official statement regarding the incident, but significantly ***made no recommendation*** that a further investigation should be carried out."

Nowhere in my letter do I state as you suggest that Lt Col Halt:

> "... made a recommendation that no further investigation be carried out".

3. I attach for your information a Hansard extract of the responses given by Mr Soames the Minister(Armed Forces) to two Parliamentary Questions tabled by Martin Redmond MP in July of this year about the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest.

Your sincerely,

Section 40

(D).2

HANSARD EXTRACT

Written Answers

24 July 1996, Columns 423 & 424

Rendlesham Forest (Incident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what response his Department made to the report submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980; what interviews were held; and if he will make a statement; [39247]

(2) who assessed that the events around RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, which were reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt were of no defence significance; on what evidence the assessment was made; what analysis of events was carried out; and if he will make a statement. [39249]

Mr. Soames: The report was assessed by the staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

(E)

Section 40

BATH Section 40
ENGLAND
TEL: Section 40
Section 40

Dear Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a.

Many thanks for your letter of 30 th Oct. 1996.
Also thank you for pointing out my error over the quote from the 'Halt' statement.

I am writing again with some questions on the 1980 (Dec) incidents, between the Rendlesham and Woodbridge airbases.

1: In reference to the letter of 7th Nov. 1994 from yourself, it mentioned, 'that this decision was based on the available evidence. Could you clarify 'Available evidence'?
A: was the Halt statement 'the evidence'?
B: Is it the only evidence?
C: If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2: A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who are the patrolmen?
Were there statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3: 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement, 'Numerous individuals witness the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
Is it possible to see these statements?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the M.O.D would have to have at least interviewed, or asked the other witnesses for statements.
If this is not the case please could you tell me why they weren't?

Thank you again for taking the time to help me try to understand the events of the nights in question.

All the best...

(F.)

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Section 40
Bath
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
19 November 1996

Dear Section 40 ,

1. Thank you for your undated letter which we received on 13 November.

2. The MOD position regarding the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is that the events were judged by those with responsibility for air defence matters at the time to have no defence significance. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 15 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

3. I am afraid there is nothing more that I can add to the comments I have previously provided.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(1)

Dear Section 40 ,

Thankyou for the last letter received from you in Nov 1996.

I am enquiring about the incident of Dec 1980 between the Woodbrige and Rendlesham air bases.

I am not asking about any new information, as I already know the MOD standpoint on this. I also know the MOD standpoint that the event was of "no defence significance"and I thank you for clarifying that with me in your last letter.
All I am asking is for a reply to the questions below so as to help me understand the event in question.

The questions I have are:

In the letter from you dated 7th Nov 1994 it mentioned, "that the decision was based on the available evidence"
A. Was the Halt statement' the evidence'?
B. Is it the only evidence?
C. If there is other evidence what form did it take?

2. A point of the 'Halt' statement states 'Three patrolmen proceeded on foot'.
Who were the patrolmen?
Were their statements taken?
If so is it possible to see them?

3. 'Halt' also states in paragraph three of the statement,'Numerous individuals witnessed the activities'.
Who were these individuals?
Were they interviewed or had they given statements?
If so is it possible to see them?

From looking at the 'Halt' statement, it seems that the MOD would have to have at least interviewed, or had statements fro all the other witnesses involved, if only to show that Halt wasn't halucinating in any way.

Also Is it possible to see the cover letter that was attached to the Halt statement, when it was sent by the Base Commander to the MOD?

I thank you in advance for any help you can give me.

All the best...

(4)

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Section 40
BATH
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 June 1997

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 21 May concerning events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.

2. I am afraid that there really is nothing further I can add to the information I have given in previous correspondence on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

MOD Form 174D

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 22

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. 9

DATE OPENED 15/10/97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: PE: US 3722/97

MP: RHODRI MORGAN

CONST: Section 40 [redacted]

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

UNCLASSIFIED

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 10

D/US of S/JS 3722/97/M

20 October 1997

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
21 OCT 1997
FILE

Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of 18 September (reference: file 4069) enclosing further correspondence from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, about alleged "UFO" incidents.

I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] feels his concerns were not fully addressed. It is sometimes the case that my Department's limited interest in these matters does not correspond with the wider-ranging interests of members of the public such as Section 40 [redacted]. I hope, therefore, that the following additional information helps to clarify matters.

Section 40 [redacted] now specifically seeks our comment on the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. When the Ministry of Defence was informed at the time, all available substantiated evidence would have been looked at in the usual way by those within my Department responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement then was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and no further investigation into the matter was deemed to be necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by my Department was incorrect.

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP

Recycled Paper

Section 40 also seeks clarification of why sighting reports were passed to MOD Intelligence branches. Reports from the public are only received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized military activity. As such, they are passed as necessary to MOD experts, including intelligence branches in order to establish their defence, scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats.

With regard to the alleged incident at West Freugh in 1957, I can say that all of the information, including any relevant background material assessed to be worthy of permanent preservation, is held in the files in the Public Record Office. I cannot of course speculate on the events of forty years ago. I should, however, wish to reassure Section 40 that defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

The recent comments attributed to Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley about an encounter with an "extraterrestrial" are, of course, his own views. I should stress at this point that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, however, we know of no evidence which would support the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Finally, Section 40 seeks release of all "UFO" files held under extended closure. My Department does not hold "UFO" files under extended closure. As I said in my earlier reply, MOD files are subject to the Provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, and material over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" has been transferred to the Public Record Office. So far as intelligence branch files are concerned these might, of course, contain sensitive information on terrestrial military threats and so careful reviewing processes apply. Under present review procedures their files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation either reach the Public Record Office 30 years after

Recycled Paper

the date of the last document on the file or, where sensitivity precludes release, the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for closure. My officials have confirmed that they are not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure. During a very recent routine review, two policy files have been found to include, between them, some documents spanning the period 1958-1967. These files will be included with the 1998 New Year releases.

I hope this further information will set Section 40 's concerns to rest.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper

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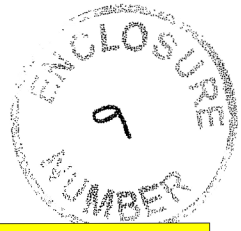


LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

13 Oct 97 Section 40 [redacted]

PE Unit
(thro [redacted])

Copy to:

DDI Sec
Hd CS(RM)1
ADGE1

LETTER FROM RHODRI MORGAN MP - US 3722/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Rhodri Morgan MP. The background note and draft reply necessitated detailed research and consultation between ourselves and other branches and I am grateful for the extension of the deadline.

2. This is the second time Section 40 [redacted] has written to the Department via his MP in as many months. He is not content with the response he received to his first letter (US 3134/97 attached at ANNEX A) and raises further detailed issues. There is no indication, however, that Rhodri Morgan has any personal interest in "UFO" issues or was unhappy with the earlier reply.

3. As is sometimes the case with correspondence on "UFOs" from members of the public, it is felt that the Department has not responded properly to their specific concerns because our interest in reports of "unexplained" sightings in the sky is limited to ascertaining whether a sighting represents a military threat to the UK. A number of "ufologists" accept without question that "unexplained" lights in the sky are evidence of extraterrestrial craft/lifeforms. These beliefs are fuelled by elements of the media who seek to promote "cover-up" theories. This in turn leads to public dissatisfaction when the Department explains that to date it knows of no evidence which substantiates these alleged phenomena.

4. Taking each of Section 40 [redacted] points in turn:

ALLEGED EVENTS AT RENDLESHAM FOREST - DEC 1980

- Section 40 [redacted] complains that no specific comment was made about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest. However, in his initial letter he sought only the release of all paperwork relating to this case and four other alleged incidents mentioned in a magazine article. The earlier reply therefore explained about the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and the release of documentation

UNCLASSIFIED

into the public domain. We are now asked specifically about the case and information is provided in the attached draft.

"UFO" REPORTS COPIED TO INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES

- In response to this point, the draft reply explains that the MOD does not hold files containing "UFO" reports for establishing their "UFO/flying saucer" interest. Public incident reports are received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence region. In the past it was standard practice to pass all "UFO" reports received to MOD Intelligence branches in order to establish any defence scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats. In the early 1960s the number of reports received annually was about 50-70. Fuelled by media interests, the number of sighting reports received in recent years has dramatically increased. Last year we received over 600 reports most of which contain less than credible information. It is therefore current Departmental policy to forward for expert assessment only those reports received from "credible witnesses" such as military personnel, civil pilots, and members of the emergency services.

WEST FREUGH CASE - APR 57

- The alleged events occurred forty years ago and all of the information available is in the public domain. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Department to speculate about what might have happened. Although Section 40 has included an official document, another entitled *"Incident at West Freugh"* (TAB B) is a highly speculative piece of work which Section 40, a persistent "UFO" correspondent, has forwarded recently to the Department claiming as his own research based on the Public Record Office files. This document is clearly being circulated by "ufologists" and we can expect further copies to come to light.

SIR PETER HORSLEY

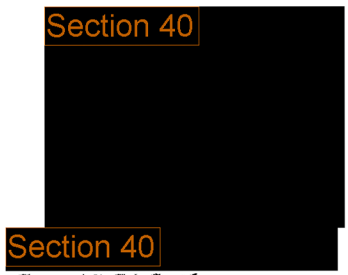
- Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley was quoted in an article in *The Mail on Sunday - 10 Aug 97* (TAB C). The draft reply makes clear that the views in the article are his own and makes no further comment on them.

"UFO" FILES HELD UNDER EXTENDED CLOSURE

- No "UFO" records are held under extended closure. The procedure which operates at present is that intelligence files which survive to a second review (conducted at around the 25 year point) are considered for permanent preservation so that by the time they are 30 years old agreement has been reached that they can either be transferred to the Public

Record Office or that they are too sensitive and should be retained in the department. To date, no files containing documents about possible "UFO" sightings have both survived to a second review and been earmarked for retention in department. It is the case that under present review procedures most files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation reach the Public Record Office 30 years after the date of the last enclosure. Where sensitivity precludes release at the normal point the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for continued closure. However, very recently it has been discovered during the review process that following a weeding exercise in 1967, the first part of a multi-part file was not annotated with its own "out of time" date but grouped with the second part. As a result, the first part was not given its second review at the proper date. These two very recently discovered policy files on "UFO" reporting, which cover the period 1958-67, will be included with the 1998 New Year releases. DDI SEC is not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure.

5. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97). The full draft reply has been cleared with DDI Sec and CS(Records Management) (information about Intelligence branch files) and DAO/ADGE1 (concerning air defence issues).



Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D R A F T

USofS/3722/97 October 1997

Thank you for your letter of 18 September (ref: file 4069) enclosing further correspondence from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, about alleged "UFO" incidents.

I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] feels his concerns were not fully addressed. It is sometimes the case that my Department's limited interest in these matters does not correspond with the wider-ranging interests of members of the public such as Section 40 [redacted]. I hope therefore that the following additional information helps to clarify matters.

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Section 40 also seeks clarification of why sighting reports were passed to MOD Intelligence branches. Reports from the public are only received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized military activity. As such, they are passed as necessary to MOD experts, including intelligence branches in order to establish their defence, scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats.

With regard to the alleged incident at West Freugh in 1957, I can say that all of the information, including any relevant background material assessed to be worthy of permanent preservation, is held in the files in the Public Record Office. I cannot of course speculate on the events of forty years ago. I should, however, wish to reassure Section 40 that defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

The recent comments attributed to Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley about an encounter with an "extraterrestrial" are, of course, his own views. I should stress at this point that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, however, we know of no evidence which would support the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Finally, Section 40 [redacted] seeks release of all "UFO" files held under extended closure. My Department does not hold "UFO" files under extended closure. As I said in my earlier reply, MOD files are subject to the Provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, and material over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" has been transferred to the Public Record Office. So far as intelligence branch files are concerned these might, of course, contain sensitive information on terrestrial military threats and so careful reviewing processes apply. Under present review procedures their files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation either reach the Public Record Office 30 years after the date of the last document on the file or, where sensitivity precludes release, the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for closure. My officials have confirmed that they are not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure. During a very recent routine review, two policy files have been found to include, between them, some documents spanning the period 1958-1967. These files will be included with the 1998 New Year releases.

I hope this further information will set Section 40 [redacted] concerns to rest.

JOHN SPELLAR

Rhodri Morgan, Esq MP

SEC(AS)20
64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

LO
7
IMBER

D/US of S/JS 3134/97/M

2 September 1997

ANNEX A

Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August (reference: 4069) to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

We have received a number of letters similar to Section 40 [redacted] seeking further information on these alleged "UFO" incidents. I hope the following facts will be helpful.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service. Records held by the MOD of sighting reports for the last 25 years, which number some 7000 in total, do not separately identify those provided by members of the police forces which included supporting photographic or film material.

Section 40 [redacted] asks about the release of official documents. As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP

Recycled Pac.

remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. All surviving paperwork over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has been transferred to the Public Record Office. The few files from the 1950s and early 1960s that did survive are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

The "Focus" article enclosed by Section 40 mentions a British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. I can assure you that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about this report. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

Turning now to the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these happened in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft has

Recycled Pa

occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

Section 40 enclosed an article from a magazine which makes reference to an alleged British operation entitled "Aeneid" in the early 1970s. Our historical records have revealed no evidence to support the existence of an operation of this name.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper

Air 2/17527

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N/x 59/64

(219A)

TAB A

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: WHItehall 7022, ext.

Our reference
Your reference

24 June 1965

Mr Langton has shown us your letter of the 15th June about Project Blue Book.

In the United Kingdom, the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence has the primary responsibility for investigating reports of UFOs., and the reasons for this allocation of responsibility are exactly the same as in your case.

We investigate every case reported to us, and we use every assistance, civilian as well as military, available to us to identify a particular object. For example, we have frequently used the resources of Kodak Ltd., to examine photographs, films and equipment submitted to us. We do not, however maintain a special scientific staff for this purpose. It is normally handled as part of the routine work of our Air Force Technical Intelligence department. Unlike you, however, we do investigate single-observer sightings. Our results over the years are in line with yours viz. in some 90% of cases investigated, we are able to make a positive, rational identification, in 10% we are unable to do so because of insufficient data, and in no case have we unearthed any evidence of extra-terrestrial origin.

Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book. Indeed, the matter has been raised only once in Parliament in the last 5 or 6 years, and then only in a perfunctory way.

The specific answers to your questions are as follows:-

a. No

b. No

c. Yes, a considerable number

d. We investigate about 70 case a year but there are others which are not reported to us, although sometimes reported in the newspapers.

We should be delighted to discuss the matter with Dr Hynek when he comes to London and no doubt you will let us know in due course when he will be here.

Lieutenant Colonel John F. Spaulding,
Civil Branch,
Community Relations Division,
Office of Information,
Department of the Air Force,
Washington DC
U.S.A.

TAB B

Incident at West Freugh

Cast your mind back if you will to Thursday, 4th April 1957. Tom Finney of Preston North End FC had just been voted Footballer of the Year and the recently elected MacMillan Government had come to the somber conclusion that the sun was setting on the British Empire. Consequently, it was announced on the day that there was going to be a radical change in the defence policy of the UK, more reliance was going to be placed on a nuclear deterrent and large cut backs would be made in conventional forces; especially those serving overseas. The world was also becoming a dangerous place to live as Britain was one month from exploding its first H-Bomb over the Pacific and the USSR was about to announce that it had developed long range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

With all the confusion over the defence cuts, it was small wonder that little attention was being focused on extraordinary events that were happening near Stranraer in South West Scotland. On the morning of the 4th, radar operators at the Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object. The first return was picked up on the screen of a radar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably uniform for about ten minutes, its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 feet. A second radar was switched on and validated this return as the unidentified flying object was detected at the same range and height. The radar sets used were capable of tracking the objects automatically and the information was obtained in the form of polar coordinates. These could then be converted to give plan position indication and were printed out onto a plotting board via an electronic pen, the heights were read off a meter. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table and after ten minutes, it moved in a north-easterly direction with a gradual increase in speed (70mph groundspeed at 54,000 feet). Further confirmation of the unidentified object came from a radar station twenty miles away from Balscalloch which was equipped with similar height/position monitoring equipment. After the radar return had traveled about twenty miles, it did a sharp turn and proceeded in a south-easterly direction whilst increasing its speed. The Balscalloch radar tracked an object at 50,000 feet moving at a speed of 240 mph while the other station tracked four objects at 14,000 feet and 4,000 yards line astern from each other. The Balscalloch radar also picked up these returns. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from prosaic aircraft. *In fact they considered that the size was nearer a ship's echo.*

In the previous December, a memo marked SECRET had been issued by RAF HQ No 11 Group (Ref. 11G/S.1803/7/Air Int. Paragraph 3 of this memo stated.-

"It will be appreciated that the public attach more credence to reports by Royal Air Force personnel than to those by members of the public. It is essential that the information should be examined at Air Ministry and that its release should be controlled officially. All reports are, therefore, to be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" and personnel are to be warned that they are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed, unless officially authorised to do so"

Despite these standing orders, it appears that the *Evening Standard* must have gotten a handle on the story as a reference was made to West Freugh in the Saturday edition (6th April). It would seem that the newspaper's Air Reporter was told by an Air Ministry spokesman that the radar returns were attributable to a weather balloon which had been sent up from Aldergrove airfield in Northern Ireland. This rather mundane explanation seems to have been accepted, the reporter had his story and the case was to all intents and purposes closed.

It would be interesting to see what the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence thought of this. In a report dated the 30th April 1957 (Ref. DDI (Tech)/C.290/3/, the following observations were made.-

1. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 feet while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 mph.

Nothing can be said of physical construction except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

2. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

3. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena (author's note.- clouds, like balloons would also be unlikely to move against prevailing winds at high speed).

4. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

It is interesting to note that observation 2 states that there were no meteorological balloons in the vicinity at the time in question which contradicts the version of events given to The *Evening Standard* by an Air Ministry spokesman. Was this a blatant cover-up of the facts ? Certainly the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were unhappy that the radar incident fell into the hands of the press and this is alluded to in a secret memo (Ref DDI (Tech)/S290/). However, even more damning were the draft notes prepared for Mr George Ward, The Secretary of State for Air. A Parliamentary Question was tabled by Mr Stan Awberry, a Labour MP for one of the Bristol constituencies on Wednesday, 17 April, 1957 (*Hansard*, col 206). The question read.-

> To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on the subject.

Extracts from the Ministerial notes prepared for George Ward read.-

> 3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that that no service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.
> 4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines:-
>
> > "That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

You will notice from these draft notes that the Minister was not informed of.-

1. The size of the object
2. The appreciable height
3. The fact that it was hovering

Also, no mention was made of objects ; was there a cover-up ? Certainly I would consider witholding information from one of Her Majesty's Minister's of State and misinforming the press a blatant cover up.

No doubt, sceptics will come up with the usual rubbish such as clouds, conventional aircraft etc so, let us become sceptical to the sceptics, let us turn the tables by saying what the West Freugh returns could not have been:-

1. Helicopters.- I agree that helicopters can hover and reach speeds in excess of 290 mph; however, in 1957, helicopters were an emerging technology and I am certainly not aware of any, even today, that could reach a height of 70,000 feet.

2. Clouds.- No, these do not move against prevailing winds (or weather balloons).

3. Powered Airship.- I think 290mph is a little excessive as is 70,000 ft.

4. Meteorites/bollards.- These do not fly in formation or change direction and are very susceptible to the laws of gravity

5. Flock of birds.- I do not know of any birds that can fly at this height. Probably because they would have great difficulty in donning oxygen masks and trying to fly at the same time !

6. Harrier Jump Jet.- There may well have been harriers prototypes about in 1957; however, I don't think the service ceiling of the harrier exceeds 40,000 ft and it certainly would not give a radar return the size of a ship (note.- in an interview with Sir Ralph Noyes, Jenny Randles was told that the West Freugh returns were more akin to battleships !).

7. Psychological delusion.- Three radar sets at two separate stations-extremely doubtful.

So there you have it, a classic case of a UFO. No whiff of a down to earth explanation and most definitely a structured craft under intelligent control. Let us be honest about this, any powered craft that hovers from 50,000 to 70,000 feet, changes direction and speed has too be under intelligent control. Otherwise, the object would fall down to Earth with a resounding thud, as I have no doubt said before, the laws of gravity are very stringent on this point. In conclusion, the next time someone debunks UFOs, do them a favour, show them this article. The West Freugh Files are available at the Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey (Ref. AIR 20/9320 and AIR 20/9321).

The Mail on Sunday, August 10, 1997

Close encount in a Chelsea fl

RAF chief's memoirs on a man from outer space

MILITARY giants don't come much bigger than Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley.

A war hero who flew Mosquitoes against the Germans, he has held one of the highest ranks in the RAF and has been an intimate adviser to the Queen and Prince Philip.

He has also, he claims, met a visitor from another galaxy.

By Fiona Barton

Sir Peter has kept his close encounter with the mysterious man he calls Mr Janus in a London flat a secret for 43 years. But now, at the age of 76, he is ready to go public.

Fixing me with a steely gaze, he says: 'We talked for hours about travelling in space and time. I don't know what or who he was. He didn't say he was a visitor from another planet but I had that impression. I believe he was here to observe us.

'I never saw him again. I have no qualms about the reaction to my experience with Mr Janus. I don't care what people think — it was what happened.'

His extraordinary testimony — in his autobiography, Sounds From Another Room*, to be published in the autumn — and his uncompromising belief in Unidentified Flying Objects will no doubt ruffle the sangfroid of the men at the Ministry. For, incredible as it seems, it is the evidence of a man who once ran the country's front line defence at RAF Strike Command, and was a Buckingham Palace aide for six years.

At his riverside cottage in Hampshire, where Christmas cards from the Royal Family hang in the lavatory, he discusses the presence of alien spacecraft with unswerving nonchalance.

'I would say they come from another planet somewhere in the universe but not in our galaxy. They are benign, not aggressive and, like us, are explorers,' he says.

His interest in UFOs began, he says, in 1952 while he was an equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh and was sparked by newspaper reports at the time.

He joined the Royal Household in 1949 as a squadron leader who had been decorated for his work as personal pilot to Major General Sir Miles Graham during the Normandy Invasion.

> 'I don't care what people think – it happened'

Sir Peter says he talked to Prince Philip of his interest in UFOs. 'He was quite interested. As always his mind was open. He agreed I should do a study on the subject in my spare time as long as I kept it in perspective and didn't bring the Palace into disrepute. He didn't want to see headlines about him believing in little green men.'

Sir Peter started by interviewing people who claimed to have seen UFOs and invited a BOAC captain to visit him at Buckingham Palace. His own encounter came in 1954. 'At the end of my tour at the Palace, I had a very strange experience,' he recalls with charming understatement.

He says he was introduced to a General Martin who arranged for him to visit the Chelsea home of a Mrs Markham.

Sir Peter cannot remember the date or the number of the flat in Smith Street — nor can he describe the man he met there — but he is adamant the encounter took place.

'Janus was there, sitting by the fire in a deep chair. He asked, "What is your interest in flying saucers?" '

And then he gave a Wellsian account of space travel at the speed of light with spare body parts in the luggage. When Sir Peter went back to the flat it was empty.

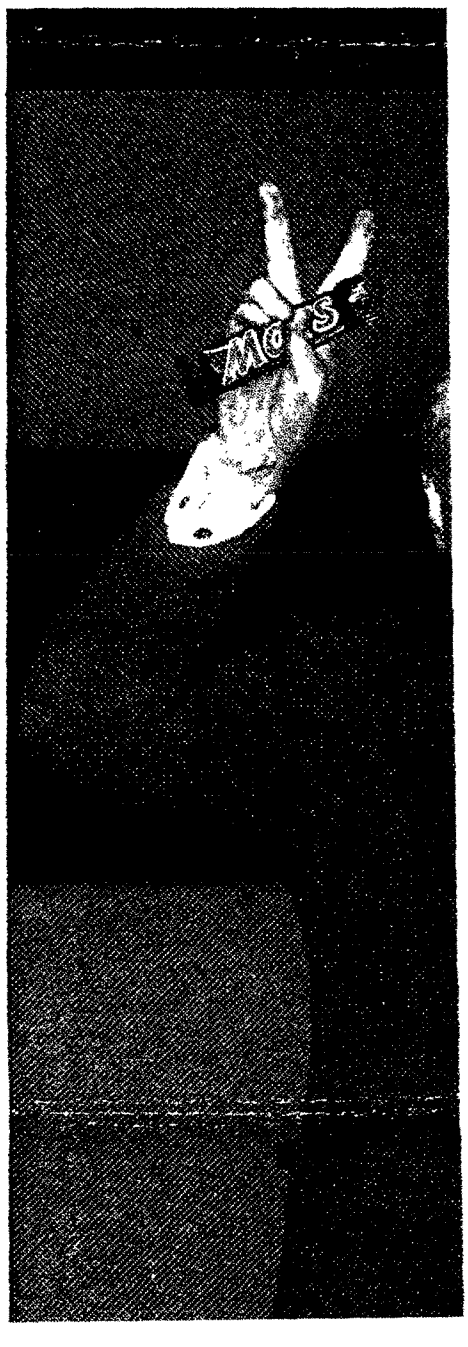
But his interest in the paranormal stayed with him during his rise through the ranks to the crucial post of Deputy Commander in Chief of RAF Strike Command in 1973.

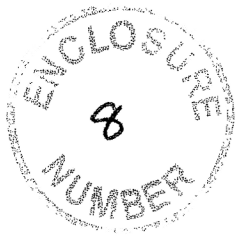
Sir Peter insists: 'I don't think I am a crank about it at all.'

But at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, jaws are dropping. As one former senior officer put it: 'Oh God. How unfortunate that the public will learn that the man who had his finger on the button at Strike Command was seeing little green men.'

**Sounds From Another Room is published by Leo Cooper in October.*

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: Sir Peter, circled, was





DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
13/10/97	Parliamentary Enqu	US 3722	[ ]

Sent: 13/10/97 at 14:42
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 1375
Subject: US 3722

Text: The attached draft reply has been seen and signed off by Section 40
Section 40
The background note (which is RESTRICTED-POLICY) and the attachments will be walked down separately to the PE Unit.

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Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

D R A F T

USofS/3722/97 October 1997

Thank you for your letter of 18 September (ref: file 4069) enclosing further correspondence from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, about alleged "UFO" incidents.

I am sorry that Section 40 [redacted] feels his concerns were not fully addressed. It is sometimes the case that my Department's limited interest in these matters does not correspond with the wider-ranging interests of members of the public such as Section 40 [redacted]. I hope therefore that the following additional information helps to clarify matters.

Section 40 [redacted] now specifically seeks our comment on the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. When the Ministry of Defence was informed at the time, all available substantiated evidence would have been looked at in the usual way by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement then was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and no further investigation into the matter was deemed to be necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by my Department was incorrect.

Section 40 also seeks clarification of why sighting reports were passed to MOD Intelligence branches. Reports from the public are only received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized military activity. As such, they are passed as necessary to MOD experts, including intelligence branches in order to establish their defence, scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats.

With regard to the alleged incident at West Freugh in 1957, I can say that all of the information, including any relevant background material assessed to be worthy of permanent preservation, is held in the files in the Public Record Office. I cannot of course speculate on the events of forty years ago. I should, however, wish to reassure Section 40 that defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

The recent comments attributed to Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley about an encounter with an "extraterrestrial" are, of course, his own views. I should stress at this point that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, however, we know of no evidence which would support the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Finally, Section 40 seeks release of all "UFO" files held under extended closure. My Department does not hold "UFO" files under extended closure. As I said in my earlier reply, MOD files are subject to the Provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967, and material over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" has been transferred to the Public Record Office. So far as intelligence branch files are concerned these might, of course, contain sensitive information on terrestrial military threats and so careful reviewing processes apply. Under present review procedures their files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation either reach the Public Record Office 30 years after the date of the last document on the file or, where sensitivity precludes release, the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for closure. My officials have confirmed that they are not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure. During a very recent routine review, two policy files have been found to include, between them, some documents spanning the period 1958-1967. These files will be included with the 1998 New Year releases.

I hope this further information will set Section 40 's concerns to rest.

JOHN SPELLAR

Rhodri Morgan, Esq MP

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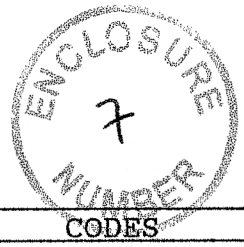

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
10/10/97	DDISEC	PE US 3722/97: RHODRI MORGAN MP	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 10/10/97 at 18:30 Delivered: 10/10/97 at 23:59
To: SEC(AS)2
CC: Hd of CS(RM)1
Ref: 466
From: DDISEC Auth by:
Subject: PE US 3722/97: RHODRI MORGAN MP

Text: Please see attached comments.

DDI SEC

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(SEC)6/2

10 October 1997

Sec(AS)2a1

Copy to:

Hd of CS(RM)1
ADI DI55

PE US 3722/97 : RHODRI MORGAN MP

Reference : D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 8 October 1997

1. I have a few minor changes to propose to your draft at reference :-

a) Para 4, page 6, last sentence. Amend to read -

"These two very recently discovered policy files on UFO reporting, which cover the period 1958-67, will be included with the 1998 New Year releases. DDI SEC is not aware of any intelligence UFO-relared files retained under extended closure."

REASON : The two recently discovered files were not being held under extended closure.

b) Page 9, line 5. Insert after "material" -

"assessed to be worthy of permanent preservation and".

c) Page 9, 5th sentence. Amend to read -

"Under present review procedures their files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation either reach the Public Records Office 30 years after the date of the last document on the file or, where sensitivity precludes release, the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for closure."

REASON: I am not sure that we can say most intelligence files reach the PRO after 30 years.

2. I have not been able to raise anyone in DI 55 because of training and conference commitments this week.

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Section 40

CHOTS:DDISEC

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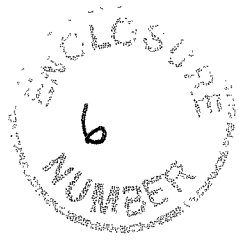

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
09/10/97	ADGE1	REPLIES TO UFO CORRESPONDENCE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 09/10/97 at 9:53 Delivered: 09/10/97 at 9:55
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 411
From: ADGE1 Auth by:
Subject: REPLIES TO UFO CORRESPONDENCE

Text: Please see attached
Regards

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

9 Oct 97

Sec(AS)2a1

`UFO' CORRESPONDENCE

References:
A. D/Sec(AS)/64/2 dated 7 Oct 97.
B. D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 8 Oct 97.

1. At Reference A, you asked whether the UFO report raised by a member of the police represented anything of air defence interest. There is no evidence that unauthorised military activity occurred in the UKADR on 22 Sep 97 nor was there any other activity of air defence interest.

2. At Reference B, you asked for approval of your draft reply to PE US 3722/97. I am content with the draft as it stands.

[original signed]

Section 40
Wg Cdr
ADGE 1
MB4227 Section 40
CHOTS: ADGE1

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

8 Oct 97

DDI Sec ✓
Hd of CS(RM)1 — Phoned comments see p. 5.
ADGE1 ✓

PE US 3722/97: RHODRI MORGAN MP

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 24 Sep 97.

1. Further to Section 40 's letter at Reference (not to ADGE1), I have put together the attached background note and draft reply to the correspondence enclosed with Rhodri Morgan's recent letter to USofS.

2. With apologies for the short notice I should be grateful for your approval of the draft (or any suggested textual amendments on CHOTS please) by **COP FRI 10 OCT**.

3. This time around I have included the full text of the constituent's letter (at ANNEX A) but have again not enclosed the raft of attachments.

Section 40

Section 40
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 97

PE Unit
(thro Section 40 redacted) **D R A F T**

Copy to:

DDI Sec
Hd CS(RM)1
ADGE1

LETTER FROM RHODRI MORGAN MP - US 3722/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Rhodri Morgan MP. The background note and draft reply necessitated detailed research and consultation between ourselves and other branches and I am grateful for the extension of the deadline.

2. This is the second time Section 40 redacted has written to the Department via his MP in as many months. He is not content with the response he received to his first letter (US 3134/97 attached at ANNEX A) and raises further detailed issues. There is no indication, however, that Rhodri Morgan has any personal interest in "UFO" issues or was unhappy with the earlier reply.

3. As is frequently the case with correspondence on "UFOs" from members of the public, they often feel that the Department has not responded properly to their specific concerns because our interest in reports of "unexplained" sightings in the sky is limited to ascertaining whether a sighting represents a military threat to the UK. A number of "ufologists" accept without question that

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"unexplained" lights in the sky are evidence of extraterrestrial craft/lifeforms. These beliefs are fuelled by elements of the media who seek to promote "cover-up" theories. This in turn leads to public dissatisfaction when the Department explains that to date it knows of no evidence which substantiates these alleged phenomena.

4. Taking each of Section 40 points in turn:

ALLEGED EVENTS AT RENDLESHAM FOREST - DEC 1980

- Section 40 complains that no specific comment was made about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest. However, in his initial letter he sought only the release of all paperwork relating to this case and four other alleged incidents mentioned in a magazine article. The earlier reply therefore explained about the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and the release of documentation into the public domain. We are now asked specifically about the case and information is provided in the attached draft.

"UFO" REPORTS COPIED TO INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES

- In response to this point, the draft reply explains that the MOD does not hold files containing "UFO" reports for establishing their "UFO/flying saucer" interest. Public

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incident reports are received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence region. In the past it was standard practice to pass all "UFO" reports received to MOD Intelligence branches in order to establish any defence scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats. In the early 1960s the number of reports received annually was about 50-70. Fuelled by media interests, the number of sighting reports received in recent years has dramatically increased. Last year we received over 600 reports most of which contain less than credible information. It is therefore current Departmental policy to forward for expert assessment only those reports received from "credible witnesses" such as military personnel, civil pilots, and members of the emergency services.

WEST FREUGH CASE - APR 57

- The alleged events occurred forty years ago and all of the information available is in the public domain. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Department to speculate about what might have happened. Although Section 40 has included an official document, another entitled *"Incident at West Freugh"* (TAB B) is a highly speculative piece of work which Section 40, a persistent "UFO" correspondent, has forwarded recently to the Department claiming as his own research based on the Public Record Office files. This

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document is clearly being circulated by "ufologists" and we can expect further copies to come to light.

SIR PETER HORSLEY

- Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley was quoted in an article in *The Mail on Sunday - 10 Aug 97* (TAB C). The draft reply makes clear that the views in the article are his own and makes no further comment on them.

"UFO" FILES HELD UNDER EXTENDED CLOSURE

- No "UFO" records are held under extended closure. The procedure which operates at present is that intelligence files which survive to a second review conducted at around the 25 year point are considered for permanent preservation so that by the time they are 30 years old agreement has been reached that they can either be transferred to the Public Record Office or that they are too sensitive and should be retained in the department. To date, no files containing documents about possible "UFO" sightings have both survived to a second review and been earmarked for retention in department. It is the case that under present review procedures most files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation reach the Public Record Office 30 years after the date of the last enclosure. Where sensitivity precludes release at the normal point the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for continued closure.

Ud CS(RM) comment 13/10 by phone.

Section 40 [redacted] 1000hrs

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However, very recently it has been discovered during a review process that following a weeding exercise in 1967, the first part of a multi-part file was not annotated with its own "out of time" date but grouped with the second part. As a result, the first part was not given its second review at the proper date. With the exception of the two very recently discovered policy files on "UFO" reporting, which cover the period 1958-1967, and which will be included with the 1998 New Year releases, DDI Sec is not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure.

5. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97). The full draft reply has been cleared with DDI Sec and CS(Records Management) (information about Intelligence branch files) and DAO/ADGE1 (concerning air defence issues).

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED

D R A F T

USofS/3722/97 October 1997

Thank you for your letter of 18 September (ref: file 4069) enclosing further correspondence from Section 40 Section 40, Cardiff, about alleged "UFO" incidents.

I am sorry that Section 40 feels his concerns were not fully addressed. It is sometimes the case that my Department's limited interest in these matters does not correspond with the wider-ranging interests of members of the public such as Section 40. I hope therefore that the following additional information helps to clarify matters.

Section 40 now specifically seeks our comment on the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. When the Ministry of Defence was informed at the time, all available substantiated evidence would have been looked at in the usual way by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement then was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question and no further investigation into the matter was deemed to be necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by my Department was incorrect.

(7)

Section 40 also seeks clarification of why sighting reports were passed to MOD Intelligence branches. Reports from the public are only received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized military activity. As such, they are passed as necessary to MOD experts, including intelligence branches in order to establish their defence, scientific and technical intelligence value in respect of terrestrial military threats.

With regard to the alleged incident at West Freugh in 1957, I can say that all of the information, including any relevant background material, is held in the files in the Public Record Office. I cannot of course speculate on the events of forty years ago. I should, however, wish to reassure Section 40 that defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

The recent comments attributed to Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley about an encounter with an "extraterrestrial" are, of course, his own views. I should stress at this point that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or to the question of extraterrestrial lifeforms. To date, however, we know of no evidence which would support the existence of these alleged phenomena.

Finally, Section 40 seeks release of all "UFO" files held under extended closure. My Department does not hold "UFO" files under extended closure. As I said in my earlier reply, MOD files are subject to the Provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967 and material over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" has been transferred to the Public Record Office. So far as intelligence branch files are concerned these might, of course, contain sensitive information on terrestrial military threats and so careful reviewing processes apply. Under present review procedures most of their files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation reach the Public Record Office 30 years after the date of the last document on the file. Where sensitivity precludes release, the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for continued closure. My officials have confirmed that they are not aware of any intelligence "UFO"-related files retained under extended closure. During a very recent routine review, two policy files have been found to include, between them, some documents spanning the period 1958-1967. These files will be included with the 1998 New Year releases.

I hope this further information will set Section 40 's concerns to rest.

JOHN SPELLAR

Rhodri Morgan, Esq MP

US 3722/97

ANNEX A

Section 40
CARDIFF
Section 40

13 September 1997

4069.

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP
Transport House
1 Cathedral Rd
CARDIFF
CF1 9SD

Dear Mr Morgan,

I am grateful to you for contacting the Ministry of Defence on my behalf; however, I did find Mr Spellar's answer rather evasive. He certainly did not make any comment on the Rendlesham Case mentioned in the *Focus* article (see Halt Memo enclosed). It strikes me as being highly irregular that a landing near a military airbase during the cold war was considered to be of no defence significance.

Mr Spellar also mentioned thirteen documents held in the Public Record Office. If he had read file AIR 20/9994, he may have paused to ask why on earth did UFOs need to be reported to an Intelligence Department (DDI Tech = Deputy Directorate of Intelligence, Technical Branch) whereas in file AIR 2/17527 a letter from the Ministry of Defence to the US Dept of the Air Force actually admits that the Ministry's policy is to actually play down reports of UFOs ?

Even more damning are the documents held in files AIR 20/9321 and AIR 20/9320 relating to the West Freugh case which make such an incredible story they will literally make your eyes pop out ! I have included this as a separate document as it is clearly an incident of extreme significance. I could quite confidently predict that if Mr Spellar saw these papers he would immediately retract his statement in Paragraph 3 where he says.- We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports.....

Whilst the documents in the Public Record Office show no evidence of someone actually seeing or speaking to an ET they clearly show that unidentified craft with design and performance capabilities far in excess of current technological state of the art have on occasion penetrated the UK air defence region and I would be grateful to Mr Spellar if he formally acknowledged this. I would also be interested in his comments on the autobiography of former Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley who actually claimed he met and communicated with an ET through a retired general.

With the forthcoming Freedom of Information Legislation (FOIL), I would be grateful to Mr Spellar if he would make the subject of UFOs a special case and release every single UFO file under 30, 50 and 100 year extended closure. I am aware that intelligence files are kept under 100 year extended closure; however, given the public interest in this subject and the established intelligence involvement (DDI Tech), these files should be released as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, I would be grateful if The Ministry of Defence would stop "playing down" reports of UFOs and release details of all military/commercial airline sightings (I agree with the memo in AIR 20/9994, people do attach a lot of credibility to sightings by airline and RAF pilots !) in the form of a press conference under the FOIL.

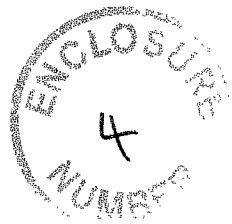
Once again, I am grateful for your attention on these matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

10



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
02/10/97	DDISEC	FILES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS OVER 30	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 02/10/97 at 16:25 Delivered: 02/10/97 at 17:27
To: SEC(AS)2
CC: Hd of CS(RM)1
Ref: 460
From: DDISEC Auth by:
Subject: FILES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS OVER 30 YEARS OLD

Text: Please see the attached reply to your minute of 24 September. It has been seen by AD DI55 and Hd of CS(RM)1, and incorporates amendments they have suggested.

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Loose Minute

D/DI(SEC)6/1

2 October 1997

Sec(AS)2 - Section 40 [redacted]*

Copy to:

Hd CS(RM)1*
AD DI55 *CHOTS

FILES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS OVER 30 YEARS OLD

Reference A : D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 24 September 1997
B : CS(RM)/4/6/37 dated September 1997

1. I was not pleased to receive your minute at Reference A, but that is hardly your fault! I apologise for being a day late in responding but trying to unravel the administrative mistakes of 30 years ago is like reopening a case on an unsolved crime.

2. As far as I can trace, my previous advice to you was correct in the sense that we hold no records under extended closure. We operate under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Acts and not Section 5(1) [see Reference B]. However I realise that is a legalistic answer which is unlikely to satisfy Section 40 [redacted].

3. The procedure which operates at present is that intelligence files which survive to a second review are considered for permanent preservation so that by the time they are 30 years old we have either agreed that they can be transferred to the Public Records Office for access by the public or they are too sensitive and are for "retention in department". So far there have been no files containing documents about possible UFO sightings which have both survived to a second review and been earmarked for retention in department.

4. What has now been discovered, during the review process,is that following a weeding exercise in 1967 the first part of a multi-part file was not annotated with its own "out of time" date but was grouped with the second part. Consequently the first part was not given its second review soon enough. In order to discover this it is necessary to cross-check file closure dates with the contents of the file. This is manpower intensive and would not normally justify a systematic check prior to the review. However now that an error has been discovered we will open other files with possible UFO connotations to see if the date of the last enclosure equates to the information on file covers. This should be accomplished within a few weeks. I realise the dangers of

mistakes feeding conspiracy theories.

5. I would suggest the line to take in response to Section 40 [redacted] is:-

"The Ministry of Defence(MOD) does not hold files containing UFO reports for the purpose of establishing their UFO nature. Public incident reports are received by MOD for their potential significance as possible incursions of the UK Air Defence region and are held by our Intelligence branch in order to establish their defence scientific and technical intelligence value, if any. As such they could contain sensitive information on terrestial military threats and so careful reviewing processes apply. Under present review procedures most files which are assessed as worthy of permanent preservation reach the Public Records Office 30 years after the date of the last enclosure. Where sensitivity precludes release at the normal point the Lord Chancellor's agreement is sought for continued closure. I can advise you that two policy files on UFO reporting, covering the period 1958-67, will be included with the 1998 New Year releases. I can also assure you that we are not aware of any intelligence UFO-related files retained under extended closure."

Section 40 [redacted]
CHOTS:DDISEC

Section 40 This is all very useful background material but I wonder how much we can usefully use. Has DDISec provided anything yet? What do you think about this?

Section 40 2/10

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

September 1997

Sec(AS)2 – Section 40 *

Copy to:

DDISEC – Section 40 *

* Chots only

FILES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS OVER 30 YEARS OLD

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/ 64/1 dated 24 September 1997

1. As with the recent exchange in correspondence between Section 40 Section 40 (PRO) and Section 40, Section 40 continues to perpetuate the myth, or perhaps shows a general lack of understanding of the Public Records Act and how government departments comply with their obligations. The following may of some general interest and you may feel some could be usefully incorporated in your background note and possibly the draft reply.

2. The Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967, requires all government departments to review their records. To select those thought worthy of permanent preservation, and to transfer them into the custody of the Public Record Office or some other suitable institution, and to destroy all others. The 1958 Act had a "50 year rule", legislation in 1967 reduced it to 30 years.

3. In line with PRO guidance MOD conducts two formal reviews, a first some 6 years after the last recorded action on a file and for files surviving this review a second twenty years later. From time to time records selected for preservation at the second review stage are deemed too sensitive for release at the normal point. The Act recognised this possibility and made provision for closure for periods in excess of the normal release point. The Lord Chancellor, as Minister responsible for public records, personally signs submissions on the basis of advice received from, initially, the PRO and subsequently his Advisory Council (Chaired by the Master of the Rolls). Two sections of the Act are relevant:

(1) Section 3(4) – for **retention in department** – this means records are still classified and it is not possible to determine when sensitivity will lapse. It also covers records retained for administrative reasons ie personnel files (which are covered by a special application) and, more importantly, to allow departments time to regularise the status of "out of time" records, those currently over 30 years old, and overdue for review. So far as the sensitive records are concerned **retention** is approved for a maximum period of 10 years at which point another review is conducted, if the record is still sensitive a further submission

is made to the Lord Chancellor.

Administration retention is normally limited to 5 years during which time "out of time" records have to be regularised ie selected for the PRO (with new applications to the Lord Chancellor if sensitive) or destroyed.

(2) Section 5(1) - where it is possible to assign a finite date to the sensitivity an application is made to the Lord Chancellor for the record to be placed on **extended closure** for a specific period between 40-90 years. In extreme cases ie the identity of a woman who was a victim of rape or where it is necessary to protect generations of descendants from substantial distress or endangerment closure could be in excess of 100 years.

4. Where whole files are closed the PRO listings are annotated and these lists are available to the public. In the event sensitive pages or passages have been extracted from released files the replacement pages are inserted to assist researchers.

5. Before turning to Section 40 ' penultimate paragraph one further point should be made about S5(1) of the Act. In addition to the closure of records in excess of 30 years this section also allows for the release of records in advance of 30 years, subject to the Lord Chancellor's agreement!

6. Section 40 ' calls for the release of "UFO" files currently subject to 30, 50 and 100 year extended closure. The reference to 30 years is presumably a request for the release of records not yet 30 years old ie ahead of their scheduled release date.

7. The **White Paper on Open Government**, published July 1993, reaffirmed the previous Administration's commitment to the 30 year rule but went on to set out a number of additional measures that, subject to resources, would lead to the release of more records. One being to "give consideration to the release of blocks of records, although not 30 years old, may be releasable". Although intended to cover the release of discrete blocks of records you may feel "ufo" files could conveniently fall into this category. If so, I will initiate the necessary paperwork to trigger the release of the 66 files currently listed for release between 1998 and 2003. Alternatively, with the FOI White Paper due at the end of the year and the prospect of legislation shortly after you may feel such an action precipitous.

8. On the question of "UFO" records closed in excess of than 30 years our own examination of the most likely PRO listings has consistently failed to identify any such records (and I note Section 40 Section 40' identifies none). I therefore have to assume Section 40 ' means "out of time" records. DDI Sec will no doubt provide you with the assurance you need on this point.

9. Finally, MOD intelligence files are not kept under **extended closure** for 100 years. In the event that such files are selected for the PRO but are too sensitive they are **retained in department** under S3(4), reviewed at regular intervals and released when the sensitivity has lapsed. Since the advent of open government we have released more than 4,700 previously retained files, many of intelligence origin.

signed
Section 40
Hd CS(RM)1
MTA8/3 Section 40

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Covering UK CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

24th September 1997

DDI Sec

* with Annex B only

Copy to: Head of CS(RM) *
DI55 *
Historical Review Team (Room 014 OWOB) *

FILES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS OVER 30 YEARS OLD

1. I attach a copy of a note Section 40 has recently written to the Historic Review Team about two files recently unearthed by DI 55 containing documents about 'UFO' issues which are over 30 years old (copy attached at Annex A).

2. Yesterday we received the latest PE, prompted by a persistent 'ufologist', seeking answers to yet more fanciful questions. Rather than waste paper copying all of the PE to you, I attach an extract at Annex B which, as you will see, seeks comment on 'UFO' files held under 30, 50 and 100 year extended closure.

3. It has been the Department's line for some time that all files over 30 years old containing 'UFO' related papers have already been released to the Public Record Office. (It follows from this that no files on this subject are held under extended closure of 50 or 100 years.) However, the information contained in Section 40 Section 40's minute contradicts this statement. There is therefore a need to correct information previously given to Ministers which is now in the public domain. There is also a need to include in the response to the PE the true facts of the case about the files/ documents not yet released.

4. Although Sec(AS) is the focal point within the Department for 'UFO' related issues, I should be grateful if you could let me have a line to take for the background note and the draft letter to the MP to explain why the papers have only now come to light. In order to meet the deadline for reply to USofS it would be helpful to have this by 1st October.

5. I have this morning received from CS(RM)1 the files in question for perusal prior to release into the public domain. I shall suspend action on this until USofS has agreed the line that will be provided in response to the PE. Section 40

Sec(AS)2
MB8247 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2
FAX : Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED

Covering UK CONFIDENTIAL

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ANNEX A

DI55/108/15

To: Section 40 , Historical Review Team, Room 014 OWOB.

Copy: File
Sec(AS)2a1- Attn Section 40

RELEASE OF UAP(UFO) POLICY FILES

Refs: A. DI55/40/9/1 PART 1 (Closed 18 Nov 67)
B. DI55/40/9/1 PART 2 (Closed 22 Dec 67)

1. You asked me to comment on the contents of the above-referenced files, which are 2 of the only 4 policy files held by this Department. Part 3 is missing. Part 4 covers the period 1971 to 1996. Part 5 is the current file in use. Although classified SECRET, almost the whole contents of these files is RESTRICTED.

Comments on PART 1.

2. Ref A comprises 25 enclosures, which, from their intermittent numbering, shows that they were 'weeded' at some time from another earlier file. The whereabouts of the missing enclosures (E2 to E6 and E8 to E11) is unknown. Although the file front cover is dated Jun 1967, it is clear that the material is of much earlier origin - the first-dated material is at E12, July 1958. The final item on the file is dated October 1963. Hence, the overall file contents is much older than 30 years and it could have been surveyed and possibly released earlier - if it had not been from the misleading date on the front of the file.

3. During my search, at your request, for any indication of OPERATION AENEID - of which there is no mention - I found the following items which are drawn to your attention, and may possibly be misinterpreted by the public and may influence your decision on public release:

- E21 Para 2 (a photocopy of this is attached) The second sentence is clearly either a typing or grammar error which implies that the 'British Bodies have access to those who are in regular contact with the operators of flying saucers. [One can imagine what the fringe ufologists will make of this! Further, please note that this enclosure has been re-numbered and started life on another file which has presumably been destroyed. One again suspicions of a 'cover up' - however unfounded, are bound to be raised]

- Letters on file frequently refer to other (SECRET & TS) files which the public might request to see. Examples are DDI(Tech)/S290/B4989, FC/S.92/23, AFL.2/S1381/ITY/PARTIII, and AMOC/TS.92/2. The latter may raise eyebrows even further as these suspicious persons and the media frequently imagine things to be 'TS 'which are not.

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- Contact with the US Air Attache (this is mentioned at Minute 1 - see minute sheet).

- E21 para 3 refers to contact with Italians.

- E57A and E59 refer to 'adequate contacts with the Americans and the possibility of Russian Scientific Commission results.

- E58 refers to possible Canadian links

- E61 Confirmation of UK discussions with the USA and Pentagon interest in any Russian information.

4. There is no mention of Operation AENEID on this file (see comment at para 11, below)

COMMENTS ON PART 2

5. The contents of file Reference B commences with a loose (untagged) sheet of paper (which is now stuck to the file cover), stating that file extracts from D/DSTI/126/6 have been moved to this file. From the staple mark at the top this loose note was probably attached to the pile of papers to be put on this file. and these were probably weeded at the hand-over period during Tech Int (Air's)- DI61e transfer to DI55. The contents of this file is 70 enclosures plus 6 minute/record sheets. By 1967, DI55f(Air) was assimilated into the new DI55 Branch and had taken over responsibility for UFOs (see first E1). A second E1 is also on file, with consecutive numbering thereafter starting on 13 July 1966. A brief review of the contents has been made for areas of sensitivity and for evidence of 'AENEID'.

6. Enclosure 1 to 8 were apparently transferred from file D/DSTI/126/6, but although referred-to on the first minute sheet, only Enclosure 1 to 4 exist here. Others E6 to E8 probably all went to file 40/9/2 (which we do not have). A note at the foot of Minute Sheet 1 requests correspondence with the USA to be brought on file. (these are all Unclas or Restricted and seem to be E1 to E4: but E5 is missing). The 4 enclosures E1 to E4 embrace the period May to August 1967 (and thus are older than the start of the file contents proper). Hence, other US-related correspondence (and repeated correspondence appears later in the sequence, for example at E26. Some of the other enclosures have clearly been transferred from yet another file - as it is noted that E6 to E19 have one (or even more) previous enclosure numbers. At E10 is a minute sheet from another file (see para 8 below)

7. With reference to the contacts with the USA, please note that we replied to a question from AS2 quite recently (presumably to follow-up a question from the public), to the effect that we have no record of formal meetings with the USA Government on the topic of UFOs. Mr Robert Low (University of Colorado) who was contracted by the US Government in the 1960s made a brief visit to the UK and presumably met with Mod Staff. There are no formal recorded minutes of this meeting. We do, however, at E26B, have a presumed input to Mr Low's Study and a

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brief summary of this meeting is at E44. We do not have Mr Low's final report on file, even though it is promised in his note at E45/E46; and again via the USAF at E61.

8. E10, at Ref B, as mentioned above, is a minute sheet from a closed (and probably destroyed) file. M5 on this sheet refers to an E50 (which may be the current E15), and which seems to be a re-numbered sequence dealing with establishments. You will see that this minute refers to 'three spacemen and probably a fourth later'. Although on close examination this refers to the staffing of the department to handle Space Intelligence (as the Combined DI55 did in those days), one can imagine how this might be misinterpreted by the public. [Note: The well publicised Roswell incident in the USA is alleged to have involved 3 damaged and one less-damaged alien!].

9. At E17, due to the DIS reorganisation taking place at the time, the scope of work of DI55 is mentioned, as are the responsibilities of several DIS departments - which we do not disclose publicly today and, for example are not even in the MOD 'Buff' Telephone Directory. It is suggested that the implied connection/ mention of France, Israel and Egypt might be considered sensitive in 1967 - the year of the YOM KIPPUR war. An earlier document (Jan 1967), at E3 reviews the work of DI61(Air) and DI62 well beyond that of UFOs.

10. No mention of Operation AENEID was found on Part 2, and apart from some decisions on the potential public and media misinterpretations pointed out above and any disclosure of DIS responsibilities and international contacts which may be considered sensitive and might need deletion, I see no reason why both files should not go to the PRO.

AENEID

11. As the existence of OP AENEID is currently the subject of a public question, I might mention here that, while searching for other data I came across a 1995 request and reply, following a question from a Member of Parliament. This is attached. I also, quite by accident, came across a series of 1994 newspaper articles which reported AENEID - as taking place in 1970, and furthermore, as a joint US/UK operation. Last week's archive search of issued operation names, by the MOD central issuing authority, over this period has revealed that this name was not issued. Further, since it might be possible that the name had been issued by the USA, our DI55 US Exchange Officer, via DIALL and other personal contacts had this carefully checked-out this week with the relevant US organisation - again without success. It seems, therefore, that, in the 1970s 'AENEID' was the figment of imagination of a journalist. The fact that we have been able to check this out easily with the US organisation should not be loosely used in any reply to the public, in case of possible misinterpretation of official MOD UFO intelligence links with the USA - which there are not.

Section 40 [redacted]

11 Sep 97

MB Section 40

1 for AI(T)5

MEMORANDUM

From: Air Ministry (S.6), Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.1.

To : H.M. Air Attache, British Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Ref : 84/S6

7803

Date: 27th August, 1956.

.....

AI(T)5

1. Please refer to your A.A. No. 6[illegible] of 18th August about the N.I.C.A.P.

2. Compared with similar bodies whose activities have been brought to our attention the N.I.C.A.P. does seem to be attempting an honest evaluation of the facts although to some extent I fear with preconceived ideas. Comparable British bodies seem to have considerable advantages over the N.I.C.A.P. in having access to reports from those in this country who are in regular contact with the operators of flying saucers. Visits have been exchanged and the subject tends to be entering fields where the Air Ministry has no wish to follow. It is likely in the future therefore that the Air Ministry will be found less forthcoming than in the past to inquiries about investigations into unidentified flying objects

3. We should be grateful therefore if you would return the N.I.C.A.P. a reply on the following lines:-

"The Air Ministry has investigated many reports that flying objects have been seen which the observers were unable to identify. In most cases investigations have produced an explanation though not always one that satisfied the observer. The more common explanations have included aircraft, balloons, kites, fireworks, car headlights and latterly artificial satellites. Among the less common have been a model airship and a hayrick on fire. When it has not proved possible to produce an explanation it has invariably been because the evidence has been incomplete and uncorroborated.

"No evidence available to the Air Ministry suggests that it is necessary to look for extra terrestrial explanations in the reports made to it."

D. A. WEST

(D. A. J. [illegible] T

Copy to: D.D.I.Tech. ✓

[redacted] — DISSc

UFO file Text of minute and draft sent to US of S' office, as proposed

[redacted] 5/5

93

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

4 May 95

APS/US of S

D/USofS/OH/1407/95; GERRY SUTCLIFFE, MP - "UFOs"

1. Mr Sutcliffe's constituent, [redacted], is a regular correspondent on the subject of unidentified flying objects and has written on five occasions over the last four months. The detailed replies he has received to each of his letters very clearly sets out the MOD's specific and limited role with respect to "UFO" sightings. [redacted], however, refuses to accept our explanation.

2. The alleged "UFO" research operation called "Aeneid" is not recognized by this office or others, under this or any other name, and the MOD certainly does not send "spies" to "UFO" Conferences. The matters raised concerning the United States and South Africa are not for us to comment upon.

3. I attach a draft response.

original Signed.

[redacted]
Sec(AS)2
MB8247 [redacted]

DRAFT

D/US of S/OH/1407/95 May 1995

Thank you for your letter to Malcolm Rifkind of 13 April regarding an enquiry you received from Section 40 of Section 40, Bradford, concerning unidentified flying objects. I have been asked to reply.

Section 40 has written to the MOD on a number of occasions recently on this subject and my officials have replied to each of his letters. These responses have explained the specific and limited role and responsibilities my Department has in connection with reports of "unidentified flying objects". We look at such reports solely in the context of our responsibilities for identifying any potential threat to this country's security. We consider reports of unexplained aerial phenomena submitted to us in order to establish whether what was seen may have been of defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and this has been case in all such instances to date, then our interest in the sighting ceases. As such a sighting can remain unexplained, but not result in any further official action. We have no role in "UFO" research of the type alluded to by Section 40.

Gerry Sutcliffe, MP

Section 40 's letter refers to the alleged incident at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. Based on the available substantiated evidence at the time, a collective decision by those within the MOD/RAF sections with responsibility for air defence matters at that time judged that nothing of defence concern occurred in or around Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge on the nights in question. Nothing has emerged during the last 14 years to make us question that original judgement. My Department has no knowledge of the films which Section 40 claims exist and alleges to be in our possession.

Section 40 makes reference to "UFO" research activity entitled "Operation Aeneid". Neither I nor my officials are aware of any such operation under this or any other name. I have already explained that my Department has no role whatsoever in "UFO" research and as such my officials are not sent to "UFO" Conferences.

Section 40 's queries in connection with the United States and South Africa are matters for the Governments of those countries and should be addressed directly to them. It is not for me to comment.

I hope this is helpful.

LORD HENLEY

Annex B

With the forthcoming Freedom of Information Legislation (FOIL), I would be grateful to Mr Spellar if he would make the subject of UFOs a special case and release every single UFO file under 30, 50 and 100 year extended closure. I am aware that intelligence files are kept under 100 year extended closure; however, given the public interest in this subject and the established intelligence involvement (DDI Tech), these files should be released as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, I would be grateful if The Ministry of Defence would stop "playing down" reports of UFOs and release details of all military/commercial airline sightings (I agree with the memo in AIR 20/9994, people do attach a lot of credibility to sightings by airline and RAF pilots !) in the form of a press conference under the FOIL.

Once again, I am grateful for your attention on these matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: SEC(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: US 3722/97

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 3/10/97

DATE: 23/ 9 /97 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

********* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to** Section 40 MB
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SEC(AS) FILE

RHODRI MORGAN MP for Cardiff West 19 SEP 1997

US of S
Sec (AS)
UFOs
(L) - 3134/9

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please Quote
file 4069

18 September 1997

John Spellar MP
Parliamentary Under Sec of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear John

Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, Section 40 [redacted] Access to Information Re UFO Incidents

I am writing on behalf of my constituent of the above name and address, who has followed up the recent correspondence by a further letter dated 13 September, which I am copying to you along with enclosures to see whether there is any further information you can send to my constituent which might meet his objectives.

Yours

Rhodri

copy Section 40 [redacted]

Correspondence to Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9SD
Tel: 01222 223207 Fax 01222 230422

Section 40
[redacted]
CARDIFF
Section 40

13 September 1997

4069.

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP
Transport House
1 Cathedral Rd
CARDIFF
CF1 9SD

Dear Mr Morgan,

I am grateful to you for contacting the Ministry of Defence on my behalf; however, I did find Mr Spellar's answer rather evasive. He certainly did not make any comment on the Rendlesham Case mentioned in the *Focus* article (see Halt Memo enclosed). It strikes me as being highly irregular that a landing near a military airbase during the cold war was considered to be of no defence significance.

Mr Spellar also mentioned thirteen documents held in the Public Record Office. If he had read file AIR 20/9994, he may have paused to ask why on earth did UFOs need to be reported to an Intelligence Department (DDI Tech = Deputy Directorate of Intelligence, Technical Branch) whereas in file AIR 2/17527 a letter from the Ministry of Defence to the US Dept of the Air Force actually admits that the Ministry's policy is to actually play down reports of UFOs ?

Even more damning are the documents held in files AIR 20/9321 and AIR 20/9320 relating to the West Freugh case which make such an incredible story they will literally make your eyes pop out ! I have included this as a separate document as it is clearly an incident of extreme significance. I could quite confidently predict that if Mr Spellar saw these papers he would immediately retract his statement in Paragraph 3 where he says.- We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports.....

Whilst the documents in the Public Record Office show no evidence of someone actually seeing or speaking to an ET they clearly show that unidentified craft with design and performance capabilities far in excess of current technological state of the art have on occasion penetrated the UK air defence region and I would be grateful to Mr Spellar if he formally acknowledged this. I would also be interested in his comments on the autobiography of former Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley who actually claimed he met and communicated with an ET through a retired general.

With the forthcoming Freedom of Information Legislation (FOIL), I would be grateful to Mr Spellar if he would make the subject of UFOs a special case and release every single UFO file under 30, 50 and 100 year extended closure. I am aware that intelligence files are kept under 100 year extended closure; however, given the public interest in this subject and the established intelligence involvement (DDI Tech), these files should be released as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, I would be grateful if The Ministry of Defence would stop "playing down" reports of UFOs and release details of all military/commercial airline sightings (I agree with the memo in AIR 20/9994, people do attach a lot of credibility to sightings by airline and RAF pilots !) in the form of a press conference under the FOIL.

Once again, I am grateful for your attention on these matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

Section 40

haltrpt.tif

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81st COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD 13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^0 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

DW - 17527

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 15 1965

Dear Mr. Langton:

In keeping with the Air Force role for the air defense of our country, we are responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) reported in the skies over the United States. The name of this program which is governed by Air Force Regulation 200-2 is Project Blue Book. A copy of the current report on this project and a copy of the regulation governing the program are attached for your information.

We are interested in obtaining the following information on British UFO activity:

a. Do you have a Government program comparable to our Project Blue Book?

b. If so, do you have a scientific consultant?

c. Are there civilian organizations in your country which are dedicated to the study of UFOs?

d. How much UFO activity do you have in your country?

The Air Force scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, Doctor J. Allen Hynek, is planning a trip to London in September. While he is there, he would like to discuss this subject with you.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. SPAULDING
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

2 Atch
1. Blue Book Report
2. AFR 200-2

Mr. R. A. Langton
SHF(Air) Room 8241
Main Building
Ministry of Defense
Whitehall
London SW 1, England

Air 2/17527

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N-/x 59/64

(214A)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: WHItehall 7022, ext.

Our reference
Your reference

24 June 1965

Mr Langton has shown us your letter of the 15th June about Project Blue Book.

In the United Kingdom, the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence has the primary responsibility for investigating reports of UFOs., and the reasons for this allocation of responsibility are exactly the same as in your case.

We investigate every case reported to us, and we use every assistance, civilian as well as military, available to us to identify a particular object. For example, we have frequently used the resources of Kodak Ltd., to examine photographs, films and equipment submitted to us. We do not, however maintain a special scientific staff for this purpose. It is normally handled as part of the routine work of our Air Force Technical Intelligence department. Unlike you, however, we do investigate single-observer sightings. Our results over the years are in line with yours viz. in some 90% of cases investigated, we are able to make a positive, rational identification, in 10% we are unable to do so because of insufficient data, and in no case have we unearthed any evidence of extra-terrestrial origin.

Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book. Indeed, the matter has been raised only once in Parliament in the last 5 or 6 years, and then only in a perfunctory way.

The specific answers to your questions are as follows:-

a. No

b. No

c. Yes, a considerable number

d. We investigate about 70 case a year but there are others which are not reported to us, although sometimes reported in the newspapers.

We should be delighted to discuss the matter with Dr Hynek when he comes to London and no doubt you will let us know in due course when he will be here.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Spaulding,
Civil Branch,
Community Relations Division,
Office of Information,
Department of the Air Force,
Washington DC
U.S.A.

Reference:-
AIR 20/9994
38054
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SECRET

From : Headquarters No. 11 Group

To : See Distribution List

Date : 6th December, 1956

Ref : 11G/S.1803/7/Air Int.

Reports on Aerial Phenomena

1. Recent reports on aerial phenomena show that some units are unaware of this Headquarters letter reference 11G/C.2802/G/Int. dated 16th December, 1953, and Fighter Command Headquarters letter FC/S.45405/Signals, dated 13th January, 1953, which was sent to Headquarters Metropolitan and Southern Sectors (for onward transmission to appropriate Radar units) under reference 11G/S.3251/OPS. C & R, dated 21st January, 1953. These letters give instructions for reporting and the action to be taken in regard to the detection of unusual aerial phenomena. So that units may know the action to be taken in future sightings, the letters referred to above are summarised in the following paragraphs.

2. Sightings of aerial phenomena by Royal Air Force personnel are to be reported in writing by Officers Commanding Units immediately and directed to Air Ministry (D.D.I.(Tech.)) with copies to Group and Command Headquarters. In addition, any reports from civilians received by units should be acknowledged formally in writing and copies of the reports themselves forwarded direct to Air Ministry (D.D.I. (Tech.)).

3. It will be appreciated that the public attach more credence to reports by Royal Air Force personnel than to those by members of the public. It is essential that the information should be examined at Air Ministry and that its release should be controlled officially. All reports are, therefore, to be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" and personnel are to be warned that they are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed, unless officially authorised to do so.

4. Radar detection of unusual targets is to be reported by stations through the normal channels. They should make a special report of any unusual response, i.e. any responses moving at a ground speed exceeding 700 kts. at any height and at any speed above 60,000 feet.

5. When an unusual response is seen, the supervisor or N.C.O. i/c watch should be informed and he should then check that the echo is not spurious, and arrange for the necessary records to be made to provide the information listed in para. 6 below.

6. Reports on such phenomena should contain, a personal assessment of, and where applicable a copy of, the following:-

(a) Appearance of the echo.

(b) The signal strength of the echo (strong, medium and weak) throughout the time of observation, including pick-up and fade points.

(c) Range and bearing of initial plot and fade points.

...../(d)

HQ. SOUTHERN SECTOR
12 DEC 1956
CENTRAL REGISTRY
FILED ON 1318

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38054
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SECRET

(d) Ground speed.

(e) Whether painting of echo is continuous or intermitant.

(f) A copy of the record sheets, together with a track tracing.

(G.D. EDWARDS)
Squadron Leader,
For Senior Air Staff Officer
Headquarters No.11 Group
Royal Air Force

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No. 3619 F.C.U.
No. 3631 F.C.U.
No. 3700 R.R.U.
No. 3701 R.R.U.

Incident at West Freugh

Cast your mind back if you will to Thursday, 4th April 1957. Tom Finney of Preston North End FC had just been voted Footballer of the Year and the recently elected MacMillan Government had come to the somber conclusion that the sun was setting on the British Empire. Consequently, it was announced on the day that there was going to be a radical change in the defence policy of the UK, more reliance was going to be placed on a nuclear deterrent and large cut backs would be made in conventional forces; especially those serving overseas. The world was also becoming a dangerous place to live as Britain was one month from exploding its first H-Bomb over the Pacific and the USSR was about to announce that it had developed long range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

With all the confusion over the defence cuts, it was small wonder that little attention was being focused on extraordinary events that were happening near Stranraer in South West Scotland. On the morning of the 4th, radar operators at the Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object. The first return was picked up on the screen of a radar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably uniform for about ten minutes, its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 feet. A second radar was switched on and validated this return as the unidentified flying object was detected at the same range and height. The radar sets used were capable of tracking the objects automatically and the information was obtained in the form of polar coordinates. These could then be converted to give plan position indication and were printed out onto a plotting board via an electronic pen, the heights were read off a meter. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table and after ten minutes, it moved in a north-easterly direction with a gradual increase in speed (70mph groundspeed at 54,000 feet). Further confirmation of the unidentified object came from a radar station twenty miles away from Balscalloch which was equipped with similar height/position monitoring equipment. After the radar return had traveled about twenty miles, it did a sharp turn and proceeded in a south-easterly direction whilst increasing its speed. The Balscalloch radar tracked an object at 50,000 feet moving at a speed of 240 mph while the other station tracked four objects at 14,000 feet and 4,000 yards line astern from each other. The Balscalloch radar also picked up these returns. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from prosaic aircraft. *In fact they considered that the size was nearer a ship's echo.*

In the previous December, a memo marked SECRET had been issued by RAF HQ No 11 Group (Ref. 11G/S.1803/7/Air Int. Paragraph 3 of this memo stated.-

"It will be appreciated that the public attach more credence to reports by Royal Air Force personnel than to those by members of the public. It is essential that the information should be examined at Air Ministry and that its release should be controlled officially. All reports are, therefore, to be classified "CONFIDENTIAL" and personnel are to be warned that they are not to communicate to anyone other than official persons any information about phenomena they have observed, unless officially authorised to do so"

Despite these standing orders, it appears that the *Evening Standard* must have gotten a handle on the story as a reference was made to West Freugh in the Saturday edition (6th April). It would seem that the newspaper's Air Reporter was told by an Air Ministry spokesman that the radar returns were attributable to a weather balloon which had been sent up from Aldergrove airfield in Northern Ireland. This rather mundane explanation seems to have been accepted, the reporter had his story and the case was to all intents and purposes closed.

It would be interesting to see what the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence thought of this. In a report dated the 30th April 1957 (Ref. DDI (Tech)/C.290/3/, the following observations were made.-

1. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 feet while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 mph.

Nothing can be said of physical construction except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

2. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

3. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena (author's note.- clouds, like balloons would also be unlikely to move against prevailing winds at high speed).

4. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

It is interesting to note that observation 2 states that there were no meteorological balloons in the vicinity at the time in question which contradicts the version of events given to The *Evening Standard* by an Air Ministry spokesman. Was this a blatant cover-up of the facts ? Certainly the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence were unhappy that the radar incident fell into the hands of the press and this is alluded to in a secret memo (Ref DDI (Tech)/S290/). However, even more damning were the draft notes prepared for Mr George Ward, The Secretary of State for Air. A Parliamentary Question was tabled by Mr Stan Awberry, a Labour MP for one of the Bristol constituencies on Wednesday, 17 April, 1957 (*Hansard*, col 206). The question read.-

> To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on the subject.

Extracts from the Ministerial notes prepared for George Ward read.-

> 3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that that no service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.
> 4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines:-
>
> > "That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

You will notice from these draft notes that the Minister was not informed of.-

1. The size of the object
2. The appreciable height
3. The fact that it was hovering

Also, no mention was made of objects ; was there a cover-up ? Certainly I would consider witholding information from one of Her Majesty's Minister's of State and misinforming the press a blatant cover up.

No doubt, sceptics will come up with the usual rubbish such as clouds, conventional aircraft etc so, let us become sceptical to the sceptics, let us turn the tables by saying what the West Freugh returns could not have been:-

1. Helicopters.- I agree that helicopters can hover and reach speeds in excess of 290 mph; however, in 1957, helicopters were an emerging technology and I am certainly not aware of any, even today, that could reach a height of 70,000 feet.

2. Clouds.- No, these do not move against prevailing winds (or weather balloons).

3. Powered Airship.- I think 290mph is a little excessive as is 70,000 ft.

4. Meteorites/bollards.- These do not fly in formation or change direction and are very susceptible to the laws of gravity

5. Flock of birds.- I do not know of any birds that can fly at this height. Probably because they would have great difficulty in donning oxygen masks and trying to fly at the same time !

6. Harrier Jump Jet.- There may well have been harriers prototypes about in 1957; however, I don't think the service ceiling of the harrier exceeds 40,000 ft and it certainly would not give a radar return the size of a ship (note.- in an interview with Sir Ralph Noyes, Jenny Randles was told that the West Freugh returns were more akin to battleships !).

7. Psychological delusion.- Three radar sets at two separate stations-extremely doubtful.

So there you have it, a classic case of a UFO. No whiff of a down to earth explanation and most definitely a structured craft under intelligent control. Let us be honest about this, any powered craft that hovers from 50,000 to 70,000 feet, changes direction and speed has too be under intelligent control. Otherwise, the object would fall down to Earth with a resounding thud. as I have no doubt said before, the laws of gravity are very stringent on this point. In conclusion, the next time someone debunks UFOs, do them a favour, show them this article. The West Freugh Files are available at the Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey (Ref. AIR 20/9320 and AIR 20/9321).

The mystery of the object in the sky

6. 4. 57

Evening Standard Air Reporter

The mystery of an unidentified object picked up by a Royal Air Force radar screen at West Freugh, Scotland, on Thursday, deepened today.

Was it a weather balloon or was it something else?

An Air Ministry spokesman said today: "We are still investigating the reports. There is no further evidence yet."

Yesterday the Air Ministry had no doubt about it. An official said then that they had checked with the radar station, and that the object was a weather balloon, which had been sent up from Aldergrove airfield, Northern Ireland.

Telephone report

Northern Ireland is only 25 miles across the North Channel from West Freugh.

RAF intelligence officers who deal with reports of unidentified objects have received a telephoned report from Wing Commander W. Whitworth, commanding officer of the West Freugh station.

He is sending a full written report to the Air Ministry.

'Very high'

Radar stations (Britain's watch against any surprise attack) are constantly manned. Other radar sets are used in air traffic control and are not on all the time. Objects which cannot be identified are reported to the Air Ministry.

It is understood that the West Freugh object was plotted at a great height.

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AIR 20/9321 35087

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D.D.I.(Tech)/C.290/3/

Unidentified Objects at West Freugh

1. On the morning of April 4th radar operators at West Freugh detected unidentified objects on the screens of their radars. A summary of this incident is given below.

2. The object was first observed as a stationary return on the screen of a rdar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about 10 minutes its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 ft. A second radar was switched on and detected the "object" at the same range and height.

3. The radar sets used were capble of following objects automatically besides being manually operated. The information is obtained in the form of polar coordinates but it can be converted to give plan position indication together with heights. This information can be fed into aplotting board which displays the position of the object by means of an electronically operated pen, while the height is shown on a meter.

4. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table, each radar being switched on to the table in turn to check for discrepancies. After remaining at one spot for about ten minutes the pen moved slowly in a N.E. direction, and gradually increased speed. A speed check was taken which showed a ground speed of 70 m.p.h., the height was then 54,000 ft.

5. At this time another radar station 20 miles away, equipped with the same type ofradars, was asked to search for the "object". A echo was picked up at the range and bearing given and the radar was "locked-on".

6. After the "object" has travelled about 20 miles it made a very sharp turn and proceeded to move S.E. at the same time increasing speed. Here the reports of the two radar stations differ in details. The wo at Balscalloch tracked an"object" at about 50,000 ft at a speed of about 240 m.p.h. while the other followed an "object" or "objects" at 14,000 ft. As the "objects" travelled towards the second radar site the operator detected four "objects" moving in line astern about 4,000 yards from each other. This observation was confirmed later by the other radars, for when the object they were plotting passed out of range they were able to detect four other smaller objects before they too passed out of range.

7. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. In fact they considered that the size was nearer that of a ship's echo.

8. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 ft while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 m.p.h. Nothing can be said of physical construction of the objects except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

9. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

10. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena.

/11.

11. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

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Reference:
AIR 20/9320 35087
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3A. 5/4/57

SECRET

D.D.I.(Tech)/S290/

S.6 (Mr. West)

With reference to your loose minute 511/S.6 dated 11th April, 1957, it is regretted that due to an oversight the West Freugh, Wigtownshire incident was listed twice; once as a newspaper report and once as a radar sighting under investigation. The error in listing the incidents means that there were fifteen reports this year. The newspaper reports were, in fact, only two and not three as given.

2. The four reports, amplifications of which you require, are as follows.

Radar sightings under investigation

(a) A report was received from Royal Air Force Church Lawford on 26th March, 1957 of a sighting of an unusual nature. The object move at a speed timed as exceeding 1400 m.p.h. This in itself was unusual as the object had accelerated to this speed from a stationary position. No explanation has yet been found for this sighting but supplementary report, including a copy of the radar plot, was requested and has been received from Church Lawford this afternoon.

(b) Signals from Royal Air Force Stations Bempton and Lakenheath on 19th March reported unusual responses which did not resemble those from conventional aircraft. Aircraft sent to find the object made no contact with anything in the area of the response.

The meteorological office are at present trying to find whether any unusual phenomena were observed by their stations in that area.

It is possible that the response was due to a seasonal phenomena known as "Angels" and "Anaprop" which is a result of Inversion and Reflection from the Ionosphere.

(c) Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh, Wigtownshire picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object on 4th April 1957; the object was tracked for thirty-six minutes continually increasing in speed while losing height. Enquiries, so far, reveal that no service nor commercial aircraft were in the vicinity at the time. We are at present trying to find out whether a private aircraft might have been in the area at the time.

The possibility of a balloon has been eliminated because the object was proceeding against the wind.

Newspaper Report

(d) A review by the 'Daily Worker' of a book recently published on German wartime weapons contained references to a German flying saucer which was flown at a speed of 1250 m.p.h. to a height of 40,000 ft.

3. The Wigtownshire report referred to in para 5 of our minute 3 of folder P.Q. 193/57 is the same incident as reported in the news cuttings forwarded with your minute and returned herewith.

4. It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the press. The two other radar incidents have not been made public and reached us by means of official secret channels. We suggest that S. of S. does not specifically refer to these incidents as radar sightings. We suggest that in answering the original question S. of S. might reply:-

"Of the fifteen incidents reported this year ten have been identified as conventional objects, two contain insufficient information for identification and three are under investigation."

5. If supplementary questions are asked the S. of S. might wish to refer to the answer given to Major Wall on 4th May 1955. Reports received since that date do not suggest that there need be any change in the answer given at that time.

[signature]

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Reference:
AIR 20/9320 35087
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E.R. 5A

WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1957

QUESTION

\+ Mr. Stan Awbery, - (Labour - Bristol, C.)

To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what recent investigations have been made into unidentified flying objects; what photographs have been taken; and what reports have been made on this subject.

MR. GEORGE WARD replied:

Reports are continually being received, and we investigate them wherever the details are sufficient. Most of the objects turn out to be balloons or meteors. One photograph recently received some publicity, but was faked.

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NOTES FOR MINISTER

Mr. Stan Awbery

For the two years beginning 1st January, 1955, 64 reports were received. Nearly all have been rationally accounted for during the subsequent investigations.

2. So far this year, 15 reports have been received, including the faked photograph published in the "Daily Sketch" on 6th April, 1957.

SECRET

3. The Ministry of Supply Bombing Trials Unit at West Freugh, Wigtownshire reported a radar sighting made on 4th April of an object which was tracked for 36 minutes, continually increasing in speed whilst losing height. Enquiries so far made reveal that no Service or commercial aircraft was in the vicinity at the time. It is possible that the object was a private aircraft, and enquiries on this point are still being made. The object could not have been a balloon since it was moving against the wind.

4. A reference to this report was contained in the "Evening News" and "Evening Standard" on 6th April (cutting attached). If S. of S. is asked questions on this point, it is suggested that the reply should be on the following lines :-

"That report is still being investigated, and the cause has not yet been established. It may well have been a private aircraft."

SECRET

5. Two unidentified radar sightings are at present under investigation, viz :-

/(

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SECRET

(a) a report was received from R.A.F. Church Lawford on the 26th March of a radar sighting of an object moving at a speed exceeding 1400 miles per hour, to which it had accelerated from a stationary position;

(b) signals from R.A.F. Bempton and R.A.F. Lakenheath on 19th March reported unusual responses which did not resemble those from conventional aircraft. Aircraft sent to find the object made no contact with anything in the area. The Meteorological Office are at present trying to find out whether any unusual phenomena were observed by nearby stations. It is possible that the response was due to a seasonal phenomena resulting from inversion and reflection from the ionosphere.

Neither of these incidents has received any publicity.

6. The "Daily Worker" recently reviewed a book on German Wartime Weapons which referred to a flying saucer which was flown at a speed of 1,250 miles an hour at a height of 40,000 ft. If S. of S. is asked about this point, it is suggested that he might point out that it is really another question.

/7...

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7. The fake photograph referred to in the answer was subsequently explained in the "Daily Sketch." Two days after the photograph appeared, a small paragraph explained that the "Flying saucer had been constructed of cardboard and silver paper, suspended from a clothes line, and photographed. The perpetrator claimed that he took the photograph in order to prove that 'flying saucer pictures can be faked'."

8. General questions on unidentified flying objects might be answered on the following lines :-

> "Nearly all the reports which we receive are satisfactorily explained in the subsequent investigation. Only a few remain unexplained, and then only for lack of sufficient data."

9. The Hansard extract for an earlier Question from Major Wall about flying saucers is attached.

14D

MOD Form 174D

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~

STAFF

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 21

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. 8

DATE OPENED 10/10/97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

PE: DP 3842/97

LORD HILL NORTON

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

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(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

UNCLASSIFIED

Certifying Officer .....

Date .....

Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED~~

STAFF

UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40 - Sec 1.4(a)
UNCLASSIFIED

64/4 IEJ.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 071-21 Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
071-21 89000 (Switchboard)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

Minister of State
for Defence Procurement

From: THE RT HON DR THE LORD GILBERT

D/Min(DP)/JWG/MP/3842/97/M

16 October 1997

Dear Lord Hill-Norton,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that this Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980. Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude, therefore, that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still, the case, that MOD does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

I hope this clarifies the position.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SEC (AS) 2 20 OCT 1997 FILE

Section 40 [redacted]

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

dppsMb39/pe/3842hillno/an/cs

Recycled Paper

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

9 Oct 97

PE Unit Section 40
(thro Section 40)

DP 3842/97: LORD HILL-NORTON

1. I attach a draft reply for Min(DP) to send to Lord Hill-Norton. In his letter Lord Hill-Norton makes reference to Parliamentary Questions he raised in the Summer about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of Dec 80, the background to which is attached at ANNEX A.

2. Lord Hill-Norton asks for a specific yes or no to the question concerning whether the MOD replied to Lt Col Charles Halt's memo of Jan 81. The files do not record a reply sent to Lt Col Halt. His memo to the RAF Commander at the base simply recorded events as he saw them and he made no recommendation for action. We can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This was what was said in the reply to the PQ.

3. The draft reply provided now seeks to clarify that it was then, and continues to be the case, that witnesses are not routinely contacted following receipt of reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. This would only be the case if there was any indication that a sighting was of air defence concern and further information was required.

4. Lt Col Halt no longer serves in the USAF and has appeared on numerous television programmes over recent years recounting events of that night. He frequently mentions that no-one contacted him following submission of his memo but, as far as can be ascertained from the files he made no attempt to follow-up the matter in the months after submission of his memo.

5. Lord Hill-Norton's letter states that he is preparing a 'dossier' on this case. It seems probable therefore that further attempts are being made by the "UFO" lobby to raise the profile of the events of over 16½ years ago.

UNCLASSIFIED

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

[redacted]
Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

UNCLASSIFIED

DP 3842/97 October 1997

D R A F T

Thank you for your letter of 22 September concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that my Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980. Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude therefore that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still the case, that my Department does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

I hope this clarifies the position.

LORD GILBERT

The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

ANNEX A

The Lord Hill-Norton – To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not. [31st July]

The Lord Hill-Norton – To ask Her Majesty's Government how the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest. [31st July]

A N S W E R

(The Lord Gilbert)

The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MOD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective, some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence

12 September 1997 0861I/0862I

UNCLASSIFIED

BACKGROUND NOTE: 0861i & 0862i

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologist" causes.

2. The MOD position on "UFO" sightings is that we examine any reports received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "unidentified flying object" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.

3. The alleged incidents referred to in the 1981 memorandum occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting written some two weeks after the events (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

4. This incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, all available evidence was examined at the time and nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which calls the original judgement into question.

5. It was then, and continues to be the case that witnesses are not routinely contacted following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt (or any other witness) had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and further information was required.

6. The PQs may have been prompted by the publication of two books, one on "UFOs" and the other on "Alien Abductions" by a former member of Sec(AS), Mr Nicholas Pope. The incident is discussed in Mr Pope's first book. He states that the radiation readings taken by USAF personnel at the site were

UNCLASSIFIED

unusually high. There is, however, no evidence that any analysis of the radiation readings reported at the site was undertaken at the time. It can only be assumed now that in view of the assessment made at the time by the relevant air defence experts that the UK air defence region had not been compromised, no analysis of the reported readings was judged necessary.

Section 40

approached the Defence Radiological Protection Service in 1994 for their views. Their advice was that the readings were higher than normal but that there could be a number of explanations for this. Section 40 enquiry was made by telephone and is documented only by a handwritten file note.

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
09/10/97	Parliamentary Enqu	DP 3842/97	[ ]

Sent: 09/10/97 at 13:25
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 1371
Subject: DP 3842/97

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 .

The background note (which is RESTRICTED-STAFF) will be walked down separately to the PE Unit.

UNCLASSIFIED

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

DP 3842/97 October 1997

D R A F T

Thank you for your letter of 22 September concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that my Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980. Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude therefore that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still the case, that my Department does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

I hope this clarifies the position.

LORD GILBERT

The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

Head of Sec (AS)

Thank you. Some minor amendments

Section 40 [redacted]

Lord Hill-Norton was not (Copy) with the reply to the PQ at Tab A. I thought you might wish to be aware of the line I propose in response to his letter at Tab B.

Section 40 [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED
COVERING RESTRICTED — STAFF
ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

Oct 97 **D R A F T**

PE Unit
(thro Section 40)

DP 3842/97: LORD HILL-NORTON

1. I attach a draft reply for Min(DP) to send to Lord Hill-Norton. In his letter Lord Hill-Norton makes reference to Parliamentary Questions he raised in the Summer about the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of Dec 1980, the background to which is attached at ANNEX A.

2. Lord Hill-Norton asks for a specific yes or no to the question concerning whether the MOD replied to Lt Col Charles Halt's memo of Jan 81. The files do not record ~~From all available information there is no evidence to suggest~~ a reply ~~was~~ sent to Lt Col Halt. His memo to the RAF commander at the base simply recorded events as he saw them and he made no recommendation for ~~that further~~ action ~~was, in his opinion, required.~~ We can only conclude that no follow-up action was deemed necessary in view of the seeming lack of evidence that the UK Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. This was what was said ~~the line we gave~~ in the reply to the PQ.

3. The draft reply provided now seeks to clarify that it was then, and continues to be the case, that witnesses are not routinely contacted following receipt of reports of "unexplained"

COVERING RESTRICTED — STAFF
UNCLASSIFIED

aerial sightings. This would only be the case if there was any indication that a sighting was of air defence concern and further information was required.

4. Lt Col Halt no longer serves in the USAF and has appeared on numerous television programmes over recent years recounting events of that night. He frequently mentions that no-one contacted him following submission of his memo but, as far as can be ascertained from the files he made no attempt to follow-up the matter in the months after submission of his memo.

5. Lord Hill-Norton's letter states that he is preparing a 'dossier' on this case. It seems probable therefore that further attempts are being made by the "UFO" lobby to raise the profile of the events of over 16½ years ago.

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

DP 3842/97 October 1997

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 1997 concerning the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

From Departmental records available from that period we have found no evidence to suggest that my Department contacted Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt following receipt of his memo of January 1981 recording "Unexplained Lights" in the area in December 1980.

Some 16 years after the event we can only conclude ~~therefore~~ that it was not considered necessary to make further enquiries in the light of the lack of any evidence to suggest that the UK's Air Defence Region had been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

It was then, and is still the case, that my Department does not routinely contact witnesses who submit reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. Follow-up action is only deemed necessary if there is corroborating evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region or other evidence of a matter of defence concern.

I hope this clarifies the position.

LORD GILBERT

The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: SEC(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: DP 3842/97

MINISTER REPLYING: Min(DP) DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 13/10/97

DATE: 1 / 10 /97 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section MB

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

********* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to Section MB**
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

ENCLOSURE 1 MB
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
01 OCT
FILE

Deal as a PE please
Pay MINDS
Sec AS
UFOs

HOUSE OF LORDS

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB — Sec AS

The Lord Gilbert
House of Lords
Westminster
London SW1A

22 September, 1997

Dear Lord Gilbert,

I have just received your reply (I presume that the illegible squiggle is your signature) to my Question for Written Answer of 31 July, about Colonel Halt's report on an incident at RAF Woodbridge, in 1981.

You have not answered my question, which was " ..... Did the MOD reply to the Memo from Lt Col Halt .....", so I shall have to put it down again in a different form. The answer must be, simply, Yes or No. I need the formal reply for the dossier which is being prepared.

You may wish to know that his Memo, which has been in the public domain for 15 years, covers a great deal more than "lights in the sky". Five books have been written about the incident, of which the latest, published two months ago, is "Left at East Gate" by one Larry Warren, who was one of the enlisted men sent to investigate the violation of British Air Space.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

The Lord Hill-Norton – To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not. [31st July]

The Lord Hill-Norton – To ask Her Majesty's Government how the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest. [31st July]

A N S W E R

(The Lord Gilbert)

The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MOD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective, some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence

12 September 1997 0861I/0862I

UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 20

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 6414

Enclosure Jacket No. 7

DATE OPENED 23 SEPT 97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: PE: US 3472/97

MP: BOB RUSSELL

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
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3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/JS 3472/97/A

2 October 1997

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September to George Robertson about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

First I should say that my Department examines any reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings solely to establish whether what has been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "unexplained" aerial sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The following facts may be useful to you concerning the individual points in the attachment to your letter:

(i) There was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern with regard to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in 1980 and no further investigation into the matter was deemed necessary at the time. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect.

Bob Russell Esq MP

FILE 644

Recycled Paper

(ii) Reports of sightings on 30/31 March 1993 are recorded on file and were examined at the time by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the sightings reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

(iii) I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

(iv), (v), and (vi) The files referred to are more than 30 years old and are held in the Public Record Office. All of the information contained in these files including any available background material is a matter of public record. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to speculate on events of so long ago. I should however, wish to reassure you that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

(vii) I am advised by the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of the Environment, Transport and The Regions that Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) must be filed by various agencies when an incident involving the aircraft, or a defect or malfunctioning of an aircraft has occurred which if not corrected would endanger the aircraft, its occupants or any other persons. The objectives of the CAA MOR scheme are:

(a) to ensure that the CAA is advised of hazardous or potentially hazardous incidents and defects.

(b) to ensure that knowledge of these occurrences is disseminated so that other persons and organisations may learn from them.

(c) to enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

Recycled Paper

The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

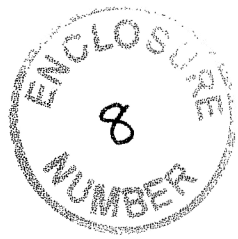
Should there be any information or lessons to be learned from submission of an MOR I am confident the CAA would alert us to them.

Turning to "Operation Aeneid", you will wish to know that my officials have found no evidence to support the existence of a British operation of this name during the period cited in the attachment to your letter.

Finally, the facts about the loss of a Lightning aircraft which was being piloted by Captain Schaffner USAF on 8 September 1970 (and not 7 October 1970) are as follows: Captain Schaffner took off from RAF Binbrook in Lightning XS894 at approximately 2030hrs GMT on 8 September 1970 to take part in a Tactical Evaluation exercise involving the interception, shadowing and shepherding of low speed targets. The target in this case was an RAF Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying at an altitude of 1500ft off the north east coast of England. Captain Schaffner was vectored on to the target and reported that he was in visual contact, but no further messages were received; it was subsequently established that his aircraft had crashed into the sea. Captain Schaffner apparently abandoned the aircraft after it had hit the sea but, despite a prolonged search, was never found. He is presumed to have drowned. There is no evidence of any "unidentified craft" having been encountered in what was a tragic accident.

I hope this fully answers your questions.

JOHN SPELLAR MP



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

23 Sep 97

Section 40

PE Unit
(thro [redacted]

Copy to:

AHB1(RAF)
ADGE1

LETTER FROM BOB RUSSELL MP - US 3472/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Bob Russell MP. The attachment to the MP's letter seeks to prove that the UK Air Defence Region has been compromised on numerous occasions over the years. As agreed I have delayed submitting the reply until Minister's return to office.

2. There is growing evidence of a campaign by "Ufologists" to lobby the Department, directly and through MPs, into a more active role in the subject of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. Mr Russell was elected on 1 May, has not written about this subject before, and is careful not to use the term "UFO" in his approach. However, a number of the cases referred to in the attachment are readily identifiable to us as incidents regularly cited by "Ufologists" in their correspondence with the Department. Since Mr Russell does not use the term "UFO" we have avoided direct reference to it in the draft using "unexplained" aerial activity instead.

3. Taking each of the points set out in turn:

(i) The facts about the "unexplained lights" at Rendlesham Forest in Dec 80 are widely known and remain as set out in PE: US 3123/97 (copy attached at Annex A).

(ii) Several sightings were reported to the Department from the West Country and South Wales on 30/31 Mar 93. They were examined in the usual way, and a check was made with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities. Nothing of defence interest was revealed.

(iii) The Airprox incident involving a British Airways civil aircraft and an "unidentified" aircraft was explained in PE: US 3134/97 (copy attached at Annex B). The facts of this case have not changed since that time.

(iv)(v)(vi) seek interpretation of information relating to incidents alleged to have occurred over thirty years ago and is culled from files held by the Public Record Office (PRO). The files are in the public domain and all of the information available on these incidents is now a matter of public record. It would not therefore be necessary for the Department to speculate on what might have happened at that time.

(vii) The Civil Aviation Division of the Department of The Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) must be filed (by various agencies - see Annex C) when an incident involving the aircraft, or a defect or malfunctioning of an aircraft has occurred which if not corrected would endanger the aircraft, its occupants or any other persons. The objectives of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) MOR scheme are:

(a) to ensure that the CAA is advised of hazardous or potentially hazardous incidents and defects.

(b) to ensure that knowledge of these occurrences is disseminated so that other persons and organisations may learn from them.

(c) to enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

Notwithstanding the reference to MORs, it is likely the real subject at issue is Airmiss Incidents whereby civil airline pilots report near-misses with "unidentified" aircraft. During the last five years there have been three such incidents (Jan 94, Jan 95 & Jun 96). Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published.

4. The Air Historical Branch has provided the information in the draft reply concerning "Operation Aeneid" and the loss of Lightning XS894 and Captain Schaffner USAF on 8 Sep 70 and not 7 Oct 70 as cited by the MP.

5. I am sorry for the length of this background note and the draft reply. The MP has asked for a full reply and we believe it is necessary to set the record straight. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

[redacted] Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40

Enc.

D/US/3472/97 September 1997

Thank you for your letter of 2 September addressed to George Robertson expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

First I should say that my Department examines any reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings solely to establish whether what has been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "unexplained" aerial sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The following facts may be useful to you concerning the individual points in the attachment to your letter:

(i) There was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern with regard to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in 1980 and no further investigation into

the matter was deemed necessary at the time. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect.

(ii) Reports of sightings on 30/31 March 1993 are recorded on file and were examined at the time by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the sightings reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

(iii) I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

(iv), (v), and (vi) The files referred to are more than 30 years old and are held in the Public Record Office. All of the information contained in these files including any available background material is a matter of public record. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to speculate on events of so long ago. I should however wish to reassure

you that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region.

(vii) I am advised by the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of the Environment, Transport and The Regions that Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) must be filed by various agencies when an incident involving the aircraft, or a defect or malfunctioning of an aircraft has occurred which if not corrected would endanger the aircraft, its occupants or any other persons. The objectives of the CAA MOR scheme are:

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(c) to enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

Should there be any information or lessons to be learned from submission of an MOR I am confident the CAA would alert us to them.

Turning to "Operation Aeneid", you will wish to know that my officials have found no evidence to support the existence of a British operation of this name during the period cited in the attachment to your letter.

Finally, the facts about the loss of a Lightning aircraft which was being piloted by Captain Schaffner USAF on 8 September 1970 (and not 7 October 1970) are as follows: Captain Schaffner took off from RAF Binbrook in Lightning XS894 at approximately 2030 hrs GMT on 8 September 1970 to take part in a Tactical Evaluation exercise involving the interception, shadowing and shepherding of low speed targets. The target in this case was an RAF Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying at an altitude of 1500ft off the north east coast of England. Captain Schaffner was vectored on to the target and reported that he was in visual contact, but no further messages were received; it was subsequently established that his aircraft had crashed into the sea. Captain Schaffner apparently abandoned the aircraft after it had hit the sea but, despite a prolonged search, was never found.

He is presumed to have drowned. There is no evidence of any "unidentified craft" having been encountered in what was a tragic accident.

I hope this detailed note fully answers your questions.

JOHN SPELLAR

Bob Russell, MP

SEC(AS)/21

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ANNEX A

Terry Rooney Esq MP
2nd Floor
76 Kirkgate
Bradford
BD1 1SZ

D/US of S/JS 3123/97/M

3 September 1997

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Bradford, about events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The thrust of your constituent's original letter to my officials (copy attached) was that the United Kingdom's airspace had been breached by unknown craft in December 1980 and his concern for the threat this had posed. In reply, my officials sought to reassure him that there was no evidence to justify this assertion. I can assure you that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

and over page

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) I
08 SEP 1997
FILE

Recycled Paper

Lt Col Halt's memorandum was assessed by officials in my Department responsible for air defence matters at the time. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken. Nevertheless the incident continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books, magazine articles and the media, most recently marking the 50th anniversary of the first "UFO" sighting in 1947.

It is quite clear that the additional points raised by Section 40 Section 40 in his original letter are not relevant to his main issue of concern. However, for completeness you may find the following information of interest:

(a) My Department does not comment on the presence or otherwise of nuclear weapons now, or in the past, at any location.

(b) We have no information about suicide rates at RAF Bentwaters.

(c) RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield; the married quarters there have been sold to Annington Homes. RAF Bentwaters was sold to Bentwaters Investments Limited on 15 May this year.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

SEC(AS)2a

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ANNEX B

D/US of S/JS 3134/97/M

2 September 1997

Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August (reference: 4069) to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Section 40 [redacted], Cardiff, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

We have received a number of letters similar to Section 40 [redacted] seeking further information on these alleged "UFO" incidents. I hope the following facts will be helpful.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service. Records held by the MOD of sighting reports for the last 25 years, which number some 7000 in total, do not separately identify those provided by members of the police forces which included supporting photographic or film material.

Section 40 [redacted] asks about the release of official documents. As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP

remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. All surviving paperwork over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has been transferred to the Public Record Office. The few files from the 1950s and early 1960s that did survive are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

The "Focus" article enclosed by Section 40 mentions a British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. I can assure you that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about this report. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

Turning now to the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these happened in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft has

occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

Section 40 enclosed an article from a magazine which makes reference to an alleged British operation entitled "Aeneid" in the early 1970s. Our historical records have revealed no evidence to support the existence of an operation of this name.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

AIR NAVIGATION (No 2) ORDER 1995 ANNEX C
SI. 1995 No 1970

Mandatory reporting

106.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this article, every person who:

(a) is the operator or the commander of a public transport aircraft which is registered in the United Kingdom and has a maximum total weight authorised of more than 2300 kg;

(b) carries on the business of manufacturing, repairing or overhauling such an aircraft, or any equipment or part thereof;

(c) signs a certificate of maintenance review, or of release to service in respect of such an aircraft, part or equipment;

(d) performs a function for which he requires an air traffic controller's licence; or

(e) is the licensee or manager of a licensed aerodrome;

(f) performs a function connected with the installation, modification, maintenance, repair, overhaul, flight checking or inspection of equipment on the ground which is used or intended to be used for the purpose of or in connection with the provision of an air traffic control service or navigational aid to an aircraft shall:

(i) make a report to the Authority of any reportable occurrence of which he knows and which is of such a description as may be prescribed; the report shall be made within such time, by such means, and shall contain such information as may be prescribed and it shall be presented in such form as the Authority may in any particular case approve; and

(ii) make a report to the Authority, within such time, by such means, and containing such information as the Authority may specify in a notice in writing served upon him, being information which is in his possession or control and which relates to a reportable occurrence which has been reported by him or by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(2) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b), in this article "reportable occurrence" means:

(i) any incident relating to such an aircraft or any defect in or malfunctioning of such an aircraft or any part or equipment of such an aircraft, being an incident, malfunctioning or defect endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, the aircraft, its occupants or any other person; and

(ii) any defect in or malfunctioning of any facility on the ground used or intended to be used for purposes of or in connection with the operation of such an aircraft, being a defect or malfunctioning endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, such an aircraft or its occupants.

(b) Any accident notified to the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents in pursuance of regulations made under section 75 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 shall not constitute a reportable occurrence for the purposes of this article.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1)(f)(ii), nothing in this article shall require a person to report any occurrence which he has reason to believe has been or will be reported by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(4) A person shall not make any report under this article if he knows or has reason to believe that the report is false in any particular.

(5) (a) Without prejudice to article 45(2), (4) and (5) and subject to the provisions of article 70 of this Order and sub-paragraph (b), the operator of an aircraft shall, if he has reason to believe that a report has been or will be made in pursuance of this article, preserve any data from a flight data recorder or a combined cockpit voice recorder/flight data recorder relevant to the reportable occurrence for 14 days from the date on which a report of that occurrence is made to the Authority or for such longer period as the Authority may in a particular case direct.

(b) The record referred to in sub-paragraph (a) may be erased if the aircraft is outside the United Kingdom and it is not reasonably practicable to preserve the record until the aircraft reaches the United Kingdom.

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
17/09/97	AHB1(RAF)1	PE: US 3472 - LETTER FROM BOB	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 17/09/97 at 15:06 Delivered: 17/09/97 at 16:48
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: /GUID:137780DA602BD1119C310020AFF4C999
From: AHB1(RAF)1 Auth by:
Subject: PE: US 3472 - LETTER FROM BOB RUSSELL MP EFFECTIVENESS OF UK AD SYSTEM
Text:

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/AHB(RAF)/8/10
Copy to: D/AHB(RAF)/9/1

17 Sep 97

Sec(AS)2a1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 3472 - LETTER FROM BOB RUSSELL MP ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UK AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

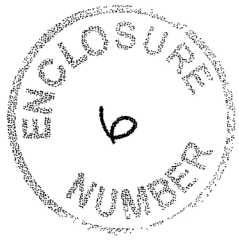
References:
1.LM D/AHB(RAF)/8/10 dated 21 Aug 97
2.LM D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 12 Sep 97

3.Reference A was the AHB(RAF) input to the response to the above PE. At Reference B you forwarded a proposed draft reply to the PE and background note for the Minister and asked us for comments or confirmation.

4.Our only comment on the draft at Reference B in the paragraphs sidelined "AHB 1" is in the first paragraph on Operation "Aeneid". In accordance with the wording of Mr Russell's question, we have found no evidence to support the existence of a British operation of this name *between September 1970 and March 1971*. Although inevitably our research carried us outside this time frame(and without result), it focused on this 7 month period. In the interests of accuracy, therefore, we suggest that this paragraph is modified by inserting *after "name", "during the period September 1970 and March 1971"*.

Section 40
AHB 1(RAF)
GSY 213 MB Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

12 Sep 97

Sec(AS)2a1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 3472

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 12 Sep 97.

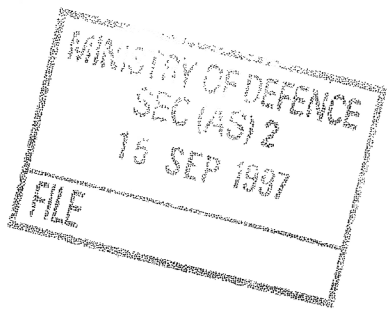
1. At Reference, you asked for comments on your draft reply to the subject PE.

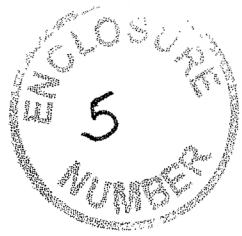
2. At the end of the para at the top of page 7 I would recommend adding after `... meet the air defence threat', `**and protect the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region**'.

3. Please let me know if I can be of any more help.

Section 40 [redacted]

Wg Cdr
ADGE 1
MB4227 Section 40 MB
CHOTS: ADGE1





LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

12 Sep 97

DAO - ADGE1
Head of CS(RM) — Contact with our line. Section 40
AHB1 (RAF)
DETR - CAD — faxed to DETR — Section 40 called. Contact with our wording.
Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY: US 3472 - LETTER FROM BOB RUSSELL MP CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UK AIR DEFENCE SYSTEM

1. The attached PE has been received from the MP for Colchester and is effectively seeking to prove that the UK's air defence system has been regularly breached by "unknown craft" over a number of years.

2. I attach the proposed draft reply and background note for the Minister. I would welcome your comments/suggested amendments, and have individually annotated those sections for which I would appreciate your guidance. I have not enclosed the Annexes (with the exception of a copy of Annex C to DETR).

3. With apologies for the short deadline, may I have your comments or confirmation that you are content with the proposed line by **COP THU 18 SEPTEMBER** please.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40

Enclosures:

1. PE US 3472.
2. Draft Background Note and Reply.

UFOs
Sec (AS)
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

2nd September 1997

Dear Mr Robertson,

Before the House rose for the summer recess I attempted to Table the enclosed Question - but the Table Office refused to accept it on the grounds that it was too long and too detailed. The information had been supplied by a constituent. I was unwilling to have the Question shortened or made "general". The advice from the Table Office is that I should submit it in full to the Department of Defence with a request that the detailed points be responded to in a letter to me. This I now do.

I therefore formally request that the various points raised in the enclosed series of questions be fully answered. I am advised that if this is not done then I can Table a Question when the House resumes requesting that my letter of today's date is answered.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Bob Russell,
MP for Colchester

Enc.

Reply to Corporate House, Queen Street, Colchester CO1 2PG

★ †

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

Please tick box:
For ORAL ANSWER ☐

For WRITTEN ANSWER ☑

For WRITTEN ANSWER on a named day under SO No 22(4) ☐

Date for answer:.....

Tick for declarable interest ☐

Name ~~Mr~~ Bob Russell

Constituency (Colchester):

To ask the SECRETARY OF STATE for DEFENCE
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

< bj5 >

19 will he agree that the UK Airspace has been penetrated by craft whose design and performance far exceed current state of the art aircraft design when taken in the context of such reports as (i) submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980 (ii) correspondence from Air Secretariat 2a1 relating to the incidents of 30/31 March 1993 (iii)Joint Airmiss (P) 2/95 relating to The Manchester Ringways Incident of January 1995 (iv) AIR 20/9321, DDI (Tech)/c.290/3/ referring to an object at 50000ft that gave a radar return consistent with a ship's echo (v)AIR 20/9320, DDI (Tech)/S290 referring to an anomalous radar return with hovering and unusual acceleration capability, (vi) AIR 16/1199 relating to the testimony of Flight Lieutenant Kilburn of No 269 Squadron, RAF in September 1952 and (vii) numerous mandatory occurrence reports filed by The Civil Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement."

"To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will secure the release of all documents relating to Operation Aeneid between September 1970 and March 1971 and if he will comment on the downing of Captain Schaffner's Lightning in the North Sea on 7 October 1970."

Section 40 [redacted]

.....
(MEMBER'S SIGNATURE)

22/7/97

For Questions for oral and written answer on a named day under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No.22 the maximum notice is 10 sitting days and the minimum notice is 3 sitting days.Written questions are normally put down for answer on the second sitting day and a reply should be received within 1 week.

INPUT NO.

AIR NAVIGATION (No. 2) ORDER 1995 ANNEX C

SI. 1995 No 1970

Mandatory reporting

106.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this article, every person who:

(a) is the operator or the commander of a public transport aircraft which is registered in the United Kingdom and has a maximum total weight authorised of more than 2300 kg;

(b) carries on the business of manufacturing, repairing or overhauling such an aircraft, or any equipment or part thereof;

(c) signs a certificate of maintenance review, or of release to service in respect of such an aircraft, part or equipment;

(d) performs a function for which he requires an air traffic controller's licence; or

(e) is the licensee or manager of a licensed aerodrome;

(f) performs a function connected with the installation, modification, maintenance, repair, overhaul, flight checking or inspection of equipment on the ground which is used or intended to be used for the purpose of or in connection with the provision of an air traffic control service or navigational aid to an aircraft shall:

(i) make a report to the Authority of any reportable occurrence of which he knows and which is of such a description as may be prescribed; the report shall be made within such time, by such means, and shall contain such information as may be prescribed and it shall be presented in such form as the Authority may in any particular case approve; and

(ii) make a report to the Authority, within such time, by such means, and containing such information as the Authority may specify in a notice in writing served upon him, being information which is in his possession or control and which relates to a reportable occurrence which has been reported by him or by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(2) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b), in this article "reportable occurrence" means:

(i) any incident relating to such an aircraft or any defect in or malfunctioning of such an aircraft or any part or equipment of such an aircraft, being an incident, malfunctioning or defect endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, the aircraft, its occupants or any other person; and

(ii) any defect in or malfunctioning of any facility on the ground used or intended to be used for purposes of or in connection with the operation of such an aircraft, being a defect or malfunctioning endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, such an aircraft or its occupants.

(b) Any accident notified to the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents in pursuance of regulations made under section 75 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 shall not constitute a reportable occurrence for the purposes of this article.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1)(f)(ii), nothing in this article shall require a person to report any occurrence which he has reason to believe has been or will be reported by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(4) A person shall not make any report under this article if he knows or has reason to believe that the report is false in any particular.

(5) (a) Without prejudice to article 45(2), (4) and (5) and subject to the provisions of article 70 of this Order and sub-paragraph (b), the operator of an aircraft shall, if he has reason to believe that a report has been or will be made in pursuance of this article, preserve any data from a flight data recorder or a combined cockpit voice recorder/flight data recorder relevant to the reportable occurrence for 14 days from the date on which a report of that occurrence is made to the Authority or for such longer period as the Authority may in a particular case direct.

(b) The record referred to in sub-paragraph (a) may be erased if the aircraft is outside the United Kingdom and it is not reasonably practicable to preserve the record until the aircraft reaches the United Kingdom.

DRAFT BACKGROUND NOTE

LETTER FROM BOB RUSSELL MP - US 3472/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Bob Russell MP. The attachment to the MP's letter seeks to prove that the UK Air Defence Region has been compromised on numerous occasions over the years. As agreed I have delayed submitting the reply until Minister's return to office.

2. There is growing evidence of a campaign by "Ufologists" to lobby the Department, directly and through MPs, into a more active role in the subject of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. Mr Russell was elected on 1 May, has not written about this subject before, and is careful not to use the term "UFO" in his approach. However, a number of the cases referred to in the attachment are readily identifiable to us as incidents regularly cited by "Ufologists" in their correspondence with the Department. Since Mr Russell does not use the term "UFO" we have avoided direct reference to it in the draft using "unexplained" aerial activity instead.

3. Taking each of the points set out in turn:

(i) The facts about the "unexplained lights" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 are widely known and remain as set out in PE: US 3123/97 (copy attached at Annex A).

(ii) Several sightings were reported to the Department from the West Country and South Wales on 30/31 March 1993. They were examined in the usual way, and a check was made with the US authorities about Stealth aircraft activities. Nothing of defence interest was revealed.

(iii) The Airprox incident involving a British Airways civil aircraft and an "unidentified" aircraft was explained in PE: US 3134/97 (copy attached at Annex B). The facts of this case have not changed since that time.

Hd of CS(RM)

(iv)(v)(vi) seek interpretation of information relating to incidents alleged to have occurred over thirty years ago and is culled from files held by the Public Record Office (PRO). The files are in the public domain and all of the information available on these incidents is now a matter of public record. It would not therefore be necessary for the Department to speculate on what might have happened at that time.

DETR — CAD

(vii) The Civil Aviation Division of the Department of The Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) must be filed (by various agencies - see Annex C) when an incident involving the aircraft, or a defect or malfunctioning of an aircraft has occurred which if not corrected would endanger the aircraft,

its occupants or any other persons. The objectives of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) MOR scheme are::

(a) to ensure that the CAA is advised of hazardous or potentially hazardous incidents and defects.

(b) to ensure that knowledge of these occurrences is disseminated so that other persons and organisations may learn from them.

(c) to enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

DETR – CAD

The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

Notwithstanding the reference to MORs, it is likely the real subject at issue is Airmiss Incidents whereby civil airline pilots report near-misses with "unidentified" aircraft. During the last five years there have been three such incidents (Jan 94, Jan 95 & Jun 96). Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between

DETR – CAD

aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published.

AHB1

4. The Air Historical Branch has provided the information in the draft reply concerning "Operation Aeneid" and the loss of Lightning XS894 and Captain Schaffner USAF on 8 Sep 70.

5. I am sorry for the length of this background note and the draft reply. The MP has asked for a full reply and we believe it is necessary to set the record straight. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Sec (AS)

DRAFT REPLY

D/US/3472/97 September 1997

Thank you for your letter of 2 September addressed to George Robertson expressing concern about the effectiveness of the UK air defence system. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

First I should say that my Department examines any reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings solely to establish whether what has been seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no "unexplained" aerial sighting reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The following facts may be useful to you concerning the individual points in the attachment to your letter:

(i) There was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern with regard to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest in 1980 and no further investigation into

the matter was deemed necessary at the time. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment was incorrect.

(ii) Reports of sightings on 30/31 March 1993 are recorded on file and were examined at the time by staff responsible for air defence matters. No firm conclusions were drawn about the nature of the sightings reported but the events were not judged to be of defence significance.

(iii) I can confirm that as a matter of routine, the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

Hd of CS(RM)

(iv), (v), and (vi) The files referred to are more than 30 years old and are held in the Public Record Office. All of the information contained in these files including any available background material is a matter of public record. It would not, of course, be appropriate for me to speculate on events of so long ago. I should however wish to reassure

ADGE 1

you that Defence technology, including the effectiveness of our air defence systems, is constantly evolving and we are confident that our present air defence capabilities fully meet the air defence threat.

DETR – CAD

(vii) I am advised by the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of the Environment, Transport and The Regions that Mandatory Occurrence Reports (MORs) must be filed by various agencies when an incident involving the aircraft, or a defect or malfunctioning of an aircraft has occurred which if not corrected would endanger the aircraft, its occupants or any other persons. The objectives of the CAA MOR scheme are:

(a) to ensure that the CAA is advised of hazardous or potentially hazardous incidents and defects.

(b) to ensure that knowledge of these occurrences is disseminated so that other persons and organisations may learn from them.

(c) to enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

DETR
—
CAD

The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

Should there be any information or lessons to be learned from submission of an MOR I am confident the CAA would alert us to them.

Turning to "Operation Aeneid", you will wish to know that our Historical Branch has found no evidence to support the existence of a British operation of this name.

AHB1

Finally, the facts about the loss of a Lightning aircraft which was being piloted by Captain Schaffner USAF on 8 Sep 70 are as follows: Captain Schaffner took off from RAF Binbrook in Lightning XS894 at approximately 2030 hrs GMT on 8 Sep 70 to take part in a Tactical Evaluation exercise involving the interception, shadowing and shepherding of low speed targets. The target in this case was an RAF Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying at an altitude of 1500ft off the north east coast of England. Captain Schaffner was vectored on to the target and reported that he was in visual contact, but no further messages were received; it was subsequently established that his aircraft had crashed into the sea. Captain Schaffner apparently abandoned the aircraft after it had hit the sea but, despite a prolonged search, was never found. He is presumed to have drowned. There is

AUB1 no evidence of any "unidentified craft" having been encountered in what was a tragic accident.

I hope this detailed note fully answers your questions.

JOHN SPELLAR

Bob Russell, Esq MP

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

12 Sep '97 11:42

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> 01	
No.	5882
Mode	NORMAL
Time	5'41"
Pages	14 Page(s)
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Classification: PARLIAMENTARY

Caveat: BUSINESS

Covering: * URGENT *

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 12 SEP Time:
From: SECRETARIAT (AIRSTAFF) M.O.D	Fax Number: Section 40 Tel Number: Section 40
Authorised by: Rank: EO Name: Section 40 Appointment: SEC(AS)2A1	Signature: Section 40
Document Reference: D/SecCAS)/64/4	
Total number of pages including this one: 1 + 13	
To: Section 40 CAD - DETR	Fax Number: Section 40
Transmitted by: Rank: AO Name: Section 40 Tel Number:	Signature: Section 40

Subject: PE 3472/97.

Section 40,

Thanks for the useful info you've faxed through. Grateful for any comments you may have on the proposed reply etc.

Section 40

PS.1. We managed to 'squeeze' an extension to the PE Unit's deadline!

2. Apologies for the length of this fax.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Section 40
GREAT MINSTER HOUSE
LONDON
SW1 P 4DR

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

TEL: DIRECT LINE: Section 40

11 September 1997

BY FAX: THIS PAGE PLUS 4 PAGES

To: Section 40 **- SEC(AS)2A**

MOD

FAX: GTN Section 40

Further to our fax yesterday I am sending you more information about the Mandatory Occurrence Reprting Scheme. The extract is taken from the Civil Aviation Authority's publication which provides information and guidance on the scheme.

The first paragraph may provide all that you need but I am sending additional background in case it might be helpful.

From: Section 40
Civil Aviation Division (B)
Section 40

FAX: Section 40 Section 40

1 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

1.1 The objectives of the CAA Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) Scheme are as follows:

(a) To ensure that the CAA is advised of hazardous or potentially hazardous incidents and defects (hereafter referred to as occurrences).

(b) To ensure that knowledge of these occurrences is disseminated so that other persons and organisations may learn from them.

(c) To enable an assessment to be made by those concerned (whether inside or outside the CAA) of the safety implications of each occurrence, both in itself and in relation to previous similar occurrences, so that they may take or initiate any necessary action.

1.2 The overall objective of the CAA in operating occurrence reporting is to use the reported information to improve the level of flight safety and not to attribute blame.

2 DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The existence of the Occurrence Reporting Scheme to achieve the above objectives is not intended to replace or reduce the duties and responsibilities of all organisations and personnel within the air transport industry. The primary responsibility for safety rests with the management of the organisations involved (Manufacturers, Operators and Maintenance Organisations). The Authority's responsibility is to provide the regulatory framework within which the industry must work and thereafter to monitor performance to be satisfied that required standards are set and maintained. The Occurrence Reporting Scheme is an established part of the Authority's monitoring function and is complementary to the normal day to day procedures and systems (e.g. AOC, Company approvals, etc); it is not intended to duplicate or supersede these.

It is thus no less incumbent upon any organisation:

(a) to record occurrences and

(b) in conjunction with the appropriate organisation (e.g. Aircraft/Equipment Manufacturer, Operating Agency, Maintenance/Repair Organisation) and when necessary the CAA to investigate occurrences in order to establish the cause sufficiently to devise, promulgate and implement any necessary remedial and preventative action.

2.2 In relation to all reported occurrences, including those raised by its own personnel, the CAA will

(a) evaluate each occurrence report received;

(b) decide which occurrences require investigation by the CAA in order to discharge the CAA's functions and responsibilities;

(c) make such checks as it considers necessary to ensure that operators, manufacturers, maintenance, repair and overhaul organisations, air traffic control services, aerodrome operators are taking any necessary remedial and preventative action in relation to reported occurrences;

(d) take such steps as are open to it to persuade foreign aviation authorities and organisations to take any necessary remedial and preventative action in relation to reported occurrences;

(e) assess and analyse the information reported to it in order to detect safety problems which may not be apparent to individual reporters;

(f) make available the information derived from occurrence reports in accordance with the relevant CAA Regulations (see paragraph 4.3);

(g) make available the results of studies of the data provided to those who will use them for the benefit of air safety;

(h) where appropriate, issue specific advice or instructions to particular sections of the industry;

(i) where appropriate, take action in relation to legislation, requirements or guidance, e.g. revisions of the Air Navigation Order (ANO), British Civil Airworthiness Requirements (BCAR) and Joint Aviation Requirements (JAR), amendments to Flight Manuals and Operations Manuals, introduction of mandatory modifications and inspections, amendments to maintenance schedules, terms of approval, and licences, issue of Aeronautical Information Circulars, Airworthiness Notices, etc.

3 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

3.1 In the UK the requirements and procedures for the reporting and investigation of accidents are the subject of separate legislation – Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations. The investigation of accidents is the responsibility of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, Department of Transport, and not the CAA. To achieve the maximum analytical and statistical benefit from an occurrence record system it is necessary that accidents be included. The term 'occurrence' as used in the UK Occurrence Reporting System therefore includes accidents. Close liaison is maintained between CAA and the AAIB and details of all accidents reported are immediately passed to CAA for inclusion in the records.

3.2 Because of the close relationship between aircraft accidents and occurrences, and between the regulations pertaining to their investigation, the following explanation is included as guidance.

3.3 The Civil Aviation Act defines an accident as:

'.... including any fortuitous or unexpected event by which the safety of an aircraft or any person is threatened'. As will be seen, this definition is, in certain aspects, analogous to the definition of the type of aircraft occurrence required to be reported under the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme.

3.4. Because the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations require that only those accidents (as defined above) in which 'death', 'serious injury' or 'substantial damage' to the aircraft has occurred, are to be reported to the Department of Transport, it is sometimes assumed that only these 'Reportable Accidents' may be subject to investigation by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch. The same Regulations, however, empower the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents to determine whether or not an investigation is to be carried out on *any* accident, i.e. whether or not it qualified for reporting to the Department of Transport. It should be appreciated, therefore, that although reference is made in this document to the need for the investigation by either or both industry and the CAA of occurrences reported under the CAA Occurrence Reporting Scheme, the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, under the terms of the Accident Investigation Regulations, is also empowered to investigate such occurrences should he so decide.

4 THE LEGISLATION

4.1 Legislation on the CAA MOR Scheme is contained in the ANO, as amended and the Air Navigation (General) Regulations, as amended.

4.2 It should be noted that reference must always be made to the ANO if there is any doubt as to the responsibility for the reporting of an occurrence and to both the Article and the associated Air Navigation (General) Regulations, to verify the types of occurrence to be reported and the information to be supplied.

4.3 The legislation concerning the release of information supplied under the CAA MOR Scheme is contained in the CAA Regulations, as amended.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

FACSIMILE MESSAGE

To: Section 40
SEC(AS)2A
MOD

Fax: GTN Section 40

From: Section 40
Civil Aviation Division
Section 40
Great Minister House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DR

Tel: Section 40
Fax:

Message:

Kerry

I refer to your fax of 10 September to Section 40 who is on leave.

I attach a copy of article 106 of the Air Navigation (No 2) Order 1995 which sets out the mandatory reporting requirements. I will also try and find a general explaination of the purpose of these requirements.

I am not in the office tomorrow but would be happy to discuss on Friday.

Regards

Section 40

Date: 10 September 1997

Number of pages (including this one): 2

AIR NAVIGATION (No. 4) ORDER 1995

SI. 1995 No. 1970

Mandatory reporting

106.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this article, every person who:

(a) is the operator or the commander of a public transport aircraft which is registered in the United Kingdom and has a maximum total weight authorised of more than 2300 kg;

(b) carries on the business of manufacturing, repairing or overhauling such an aircraft, or any equipment or part thereof;

(c) signs a certificate of maintenance review, or of release to service in respect of such an aircraft, part or equipment:

(d) performs a function for which he requires an air traffic controller's licence; or

(e) is the licensee or manager of a licensed aerodrome;

(f) performs a function connected with the installation, modification, maintenance, repair, overhaul, flight checking or inspection of equipment on the ground which is used or intended to be used for the purpose of or in connection with the provision of an air traffic control service or navigational aid to an aircraft shall:

(i) make a report to the Authority of any reportable occurrence of which he knows and which is of such a description as may be prescribed; the report shall be made

within such time, by such means, and shall contain such information as may be prescribed and it shall be presented in such form as the Authority may in any particular case approve; and

(ii) make a report to the Authority, within such time, by such means, and containing such information as the Authority may specify in a notice in writing served upon him, being information which is in his possession or control and which relates to a reportable occurrence which has been reported by him or by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(2) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b), in this article "reportable occurrence" means:

(i) any incident relating to such an aircraft or any defect in or malfunctioning of such an aircraft or any part or equipment of such an aircraft, being an incident, malfunctioning or defect endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, the aircraft, its occupants or any other person; and

(ii) any defect in or malfunctioning of any facility on the ground used or intended to be used for purposes of or in connection with the operation of such an aircraft, being a defect or malfunctioning endangering, or which if not corrected would endanger, such an aircraft or its occupants.

(b) Any accident notified to the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents in pursuance of regulations made under section 75 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 shall not constitute a reportable occurrence for the purposes of this article.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1)(f)(ii), nothing in this article shall require a person to report any occurrence which he has reason to believe has been or will be reported by another person to the Authority in accordance with this article.

(4) A person shall not make any report under this article if he knows or has reason to believe that the report is false in any particular.

(5) (a) Without prejudice to article 45(2), (4) and (5) and subject to the provisions of article 70 of this Order and sub-paragraph (b), the operator of an aircraft shall, if he has reason to believe that a report has been or will be made in pursuance of this article, preserve any data from a flight data recorder or a combined cockpit voice recorder/flight data recorder relevant to the reportable occurrence for 14 days from the date on which a report of that occurrence is made to the Authority or for such longer period as the Authority may in a particular case direct.

(b) The record referred to in sub-paragraph (a) may be erased if the aircraft is outside the United Kingdom and it is not reasonably practicable to preserve the record until the aircraft reaches the United Kingdom.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

From: Section 40 [redacted], Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Department of Environment,
Transport and The Regions
Civil Aviation Division

Attn: Section 40 [redacted]

== by fax ==

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date
10 September 1997

Dear Section 40 [redacted],

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY FROM BOB RUSSELL MP

1. The attached has been forwarded to the Defence Secretary for answer by letter.

2. In lines 14 and 15 the MP refers to "Mandatory Occurrence Reports filed by the Civil Aviation Authority". In order to provide background for the responding Minister and for the reply itself, I should be grateful for a precise definition of what a Mandatory Occurrence Report is and in what circumstances such reports are filed.

3. Thank you for your assistance with this enquiry.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Enc.

★ †

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

Please tick box:
For ORAL ANSWER ☐

For WRITTEN ANSWER ☑

For WRITTEN ANSWER on a named day under SO No 22(4) ☐

Date for answer:.....

Tick for declarable interest ☐

Name ~~Mr~~ Bob Russell

Constituency (Colchester):

To ask the SECRETARY of STATE for DEFENCE
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

< bj5 >

19 will he agree that the UK Airspace has been penetrated by craft whose design and performance far exceed current state of the art aircraft design when taken in the context of such reports as (i) submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980 (ii) correspondence from Air Secretariat 2a1 relating to the incidents of 30/31 March 1993 (iii)Joint Airmiss (P) 2/95 relating to The Manchester Ringways Incident of January 1995 (iv) AIR 20/9321, DDI (Tech)/c.290/3/ referring to an object at 50000ft that gave a radar return consistent with a ship's echo (v)AIR 20/9320, DDI (Tech)/S290 referring to an anomalous radar return with hovering and unusual acceleration capability, (vi) AIR 16/1199 relating to the testimony of Flight Lieutenant Kilburn of No 269 Squadron, RAF in September 1952 and (vii) numerous mandatory occurrence reports filed by The Civil Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement."

"To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will secure the release of all documents relating to Operation Aeneid between September 1970 and March 1971 and if he will comment on the downing of Captain Schaffner's Lightning in the North Sea on 7 October 1970."

Section 40 [redacted]

(MEMBER'S SIGNATURE)

22/7/97

For Questions for oral and written answer on a named day under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No.22 the maximum notice is 10 sitting days and the minimum notice is 3 sitting days.Written questions are normally put down for answer on the second sitting day and a reply should be received within 1 week.

INPUT NO.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission:
/	Date: 10 SEPT 97 Time:

Document Reference:
6414
Total number of pages including this one: 3

From:	Fax Number:
Section 40 SEC(AS)2A MOD	0171 218 Section 40 Tel Number: 0171 218 Section 40

To:	Fax Number:
Section 40 Civil Aviation Division	Section 40

Authorised by:		
Rank	Name	Appointment
ED	Section 40	
Signature:		

Transmitted by:		
Rank	Name	Tel Number
AO	Section 40	
Signature:		

Subject: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

** Transmit Conf.Report **

10 Sep '97 15:10

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> 01	
No.	5843
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'26"
Pages	3 Page(s)
Result	O K

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

TO: Sec (As)2 PE REF NUMBER: US3472/97

MINISTER REPLYING: US of S DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 16 /09 /97

DATE: 04/ 9/97 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

****** *IMPORTANT UPDATES* ******

1. *Ministerial responsibilities changed.*

2. *Opening and Closing* *All Ministers prefer to start:*
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. *Open Government* *A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.*

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within 15 working days to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us IMMEDIATELY by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

ENCLOSURE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS)1
04
FILE

UFOs
Sec (AS)
UFOs

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

2nd September 1997

Dear Mr Robertson,

Before the House rose for the summer recess I attempted to Table the enclosed Question - but the Table Office refused to accept it on the grounds that it was too long and too detailed. The information had been supplied by a constituent. I was unwilling to have the Question shortened or made "general". The advice from the Table Office is that I should submit it in full to the Department of Defence with a request that the detailed points be responded to in a letter to me. This I now do.

I therefore formally request that the various points raised in the enclosed series of questions be fully answered. I am advised that if this is not done then I can Table a Question when the House resumes requesting that my letter of today's date is answered.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Bob Russell,
MP for Colchester

Enc.

Reply to Corporate House, Queen Street, Colchester CO1 2PG

★ †

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

Please tick box:
For ORAL ANSWER ☐

For WRITTEN ANSWER ☑

For WRITTEN ANSWER on a named day under SO No 22(4) ☐

Date for answer:.....

Tick for declarable interest ☐

Name ~~Mr~~ Bob Russell

Constituency (Colchester):

To ask the SECRETARY OF STATE for DEFENCE
(TITLE OF MINISTER)

< bj5 >

19 will he agree that the UK Airspace has been penetrated by craft whose design and performance far exceed current state of the art aircraft design when taken in the context of such reports as (i) submitted by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt relating to events in Rendlesham forest in December 1980 (ii) correspondence from Air Secretariat 2a1 relating to the incidents of 30/31 March 1993 (iii)Joint Airmiss (P) 2/95 relating to The Manchester Ringways Incident of January 1995 (iv) AIR 20/9321, DDI (Tech)/c.290/3/ referring to an object at 50000ft that gave a radar return consistent with a ship's echo (v)AIR 20/9320, DDI (Tech)/S290 referring to an anomalous radar return with hovering and unusual acceleration capability, (vi) AIR 16/1199 relating to the testimony of Flight Lieutenant Kilburn of No 269 Squadron, RAF in September 1952 and (vii) numerous mandatory occurrence reports filed by The Civil Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement."

"To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will secure the release of all documents relating to Operation Aeneid between September 1970 and March 1971 and if he will comment on the downing of Captain Schaffner's Lightning in the North Sea on 7 October 1970."

Section 40 [redacted]

(MEMBER'S SIGNATURE)

22/7/97

For Questions for oral and written answer on a named day under paragraph (4) of Standing Order No.22 the maximum notice is 10 sitting days and the minimum notice is 3 sitting days.Written questions are normally put down for answer on the second sitting day and a reply should be received within 1 week.

INPUT NO.

MOD Form 174D

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 19

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS)644

Enclosure Jacket No. 6

DATE OPENED 22 AUG 97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: PE: US 3134/97

MP: RHODRI MORGAN

CONST: Section 40

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— RESTRICTED / UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

SEC(AS)2a

→ 64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

D/US of S/JS 3134/97/M

2 September 1997

Dear Rhodri,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August (reference: 4069) to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Cardiff, about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

We have received a number of letters similar to Section 40 [redacted] seeking further information on these alleged "UFO" incidents. I hope the following facts will be helpful.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service. Records held by the MOD of sighting reports for the last 25 years, which number some 7000 in total, do not separately identify those provided by members of the police forces which included supporting photographic or film material.

Section 40 [redacted] asks about the release of official documents. As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) I
04
FILE

Rhodri Morgan Esq MP

Recycled Paper

remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. All surviving paperwork over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has been transferred to the Public Record Office. The few files from the 1950s and early 1960s that did survive are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

The "Focus" article enclosed by Section 40 mentions a British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. I can assure you that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about this report. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

Turning now to the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these happened in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft has

Recycled Paper

occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

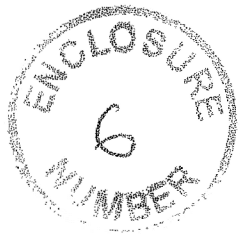
Section 40 [redacted] enclosed an article from a magazine which makes reference to an alleged British operation entitled "Aeneid" in the early 1970s. Our historical records have revealed no evidence to support the existence of an operation of this name.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40 [redacted]

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Aug 97

PE Unit [redacted] 22/8
(thro Section 40 [redacted]

LETTER FROM RHODRI MORGAN MP - US 3134/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Rhodri Morgan MP. None of the questions raised by his constituent, Section 40 [redacted], who is not known to us, are new to Sec(AS). There is growing evidence of a campaign by "Ufologists" to lobby the Department, directly and through MPs, into a more active role in the subject of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. The MP has not written to the Department on this subject during the last few years and the draft therefore seeks to explain fully MOD policy concerning the "UFO" phenomena.

2. The magazine to which Section 40 [redacted] refers is not the MOD in-house magazine "FOCUS" but one of the many magazines now available on the subject of "UFOs" and the paranormal. The draft reply clarifies the rules governing the release of documentation held on official files. Ieuan Wyn Jones MP raised this issue in June 1997 (US 2106/97 copy attached). There has been no change in the facts of this case and we have therefore repeated this line in the response to Mr Morgan.

3. The information about Airmiss incidents involving civil airliners has been cleared with the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions. The Air Historical Branch was consulted and provided the information concerning "Operation Aeneid" and the loss of Lightning XS894 on 8 Sep 70. The facts of this latter incident are that Captain Schaffner USAF took off from RAF Binbrook in Lightning XS894 at approximately 2030 hrs GMT on 8 Sep 70 to take part in a Tactical Evaluation exercise involving the interception, shadowing and shepherding of low speed targets. The target in this case was an RAF Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying at an altitude of 1500ft off the north east coast of England. Captain Schaffner was vectored on to the target and reported that he was in visual contact, but no further messages were received; it was subsequently established that his aircraft had crashed into the sea. Captain Schaffner apparently abandoned the aircraft after it had hit the sea but, despite a prolonged search, was never found. He is presumed to have drowned. There is no evidence of any "unidentified craft" having been encountered, nor is there any reason to support a "UFO" connection in what was a tragic accident.

4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/3134/97 August 1997

Thank you for your letter of 4 August (ref: 4069)) addressed to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Cardiff, concerning "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

We have received a number of letters similar to Section 40 [redacted] seeking further information on these alleged "UFO" incidents. I hope the following facts will be helpful.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service. Records held by the MOD of sighting reports for the last 25 years, which number some 7000 in total, do not separately identify those

provided by members of the police forces which included supporting photographic or film material.

Section 40 [redacted] asks about the release of official documents. As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. All surviving paperwork over 30 years old on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has been transferred to the Public Record Office. The few files from the 1950s and early 1960s that did survive are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

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PREM 11/855
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AIR 2/17527
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AIR 2/17983

The "Focus" article enclosed by Section 40 mentions a British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. I can assure you that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about this report. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

Turning now to the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these happened in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft has occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

Section 40 [redacted] enclosed an article from a magazine which makes reference to an alleged British operation entitled "Aeneid" in the early 1970s. Our historical records have revealed no evidence to support the existence of an operation of this name.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Rhodri Morgan MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/JS 2106/97/A

24June 1997

Dear Ieuan,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June (reference: IWJ/2/96/137) to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 Section 40 [redacted], Llangefni about an article relating to alleged "UFO" incidents. I am replying in view of my responsibility for media matters.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public

Ieuan Wyn Jones Esq MP

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(RS) 2
2[illegible] 1997
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interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of these files are as follows:

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AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
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AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
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AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by my Department has now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

I can confirm that as a matter of routine, my Department was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was discussed with Departmental air defence experts. As there was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter. As is usual with airmiss incidents involving civil aircraft, the CAA Joint Airmiss Working Party (a joint Civil/Military body with complete access to all sources of available civil and military information) investigated the incident. Airmiss Working Group investigations are published and can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham GL50 2BN.

Finally, Section 40 [redacted] may be interested to know that the Cabinet Office has the responsibility for taking forward the Government's manifesto pledge to introduce a Freedom of Information Act. The timetable currently envisaged involves the publication of a White Paper before this year's Summer Recess.

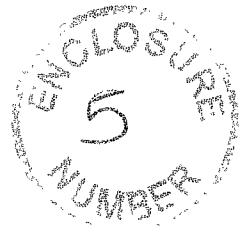
This would be followed by a period of open consultation leading to a draft Bill early next year and further consultation.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40 [redacted]

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
22/08/97	Parliamentary Enqu	US 31/34/97	[ ]

Sent: 22/08/97 at 12:12
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 1315
Subject: US 31/34/97

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 [redacted].
You will recall I agreed with Section 40 [redacted] an extension of the deadline for this PE until COP Tue 26 Aug. In the event we got the information and were able to action it sooner.
The attachment referred to in the background note will be walked down to the PE unit shortly.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

22 Aug 97

PE Unit
(thro Section 40 [redacted])

LETTER FROM RHODRI MORGAN MP - US 3134/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Rhodri Morgan MP. None of the questions raised by his constituent, Section 40 [redacted], who is not known to us, are new to Sec(AS). There is growing evidence of a campaign by "Ufologists" to lobby the Department, directly and through MPs, into a more active role in the subject of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. The MP has not written to the Department on this subject during the last few years and the draft therefore seeks to explain fully MOD policy concerning the "UFO" phenomena.

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4. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

D/US/3134/97 August 1997

Thank you for your letter of 4 August (ref: 4069)) addressed to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] Cardiff, concerning "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

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I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Rhodri Morgan MP

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

Thu 21 Aug, 1997 12:13 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
21/08/97	AHB1(RAF)1	PE US 3134/97: ENQUIRY INTO ALLEGED	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 21/08/97 at 12:11 Delivered: 21/08/97 at 12:11
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC: NHB NSD(SM1),HB(A) Hist Army 1
Ref: /GUID:0A3C0026F217D1119C2D0020AFF4C999
From: AHB1(RAF)1 Auth by:
Subject: PE US 3134/97: ENQUIRY INTO ALLEGED OPERATION "AENEID"

Text: Please find attached my response to your LM D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dtd 15 Aug 97.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

CSVR – Section 40 [redacted]

confirmed unclassified

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED

LOOSE MINUTE

D/AHB(RAF)/8/10

21 Aug 97

Sec(AS)2a1
Copy to:
NSD(SM)1
HB(A)1

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY US 3134/97: ENQUIRY INTO AN ALLEGED OPERATION "AENEID"

Reference:
1.Loose Minute D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dtd 15 Aug 97

2.Reference A asked for AHB(RAF) assistance providing information on the existence of any British operation in the early seventies which went under the name of "Aeneid" and, if so, what was the nature of the operation.

3.We have conducted an extensive trawl through the most likely sources, that is the records of many of those units quoted in the "Focus" article as being involved in the operation, for the period September 1970 to March 1971. We have found no reference to an Operation "Aeneid" or to any operation with a similar name. I have also been in touch with other offices who might have been able to help, including the NHB, HB(A) and CSRM, but to no avail.

4.On a question of accuracy, the facts of the loss of Lightning XS894 and the death of Captain Schaffner USAF are outlined in the following paragraph.

4. Captain Schaffner took off from RAF Binbrook in Lightning XS894 at approximately 2030 hours GMT on 8 Sep 70 to take part in a Tactical Evaluation Exercise involving the interception, shadowing and shepherding of low speed targets. The target in this case was an RAF Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft flying at an altitude of 1500ft off the north east coast of England. Captain Schaffner was vectored on to the target and reported that he was in visual contact, but no further messages were received; it was subsequently established that his aircraft had crashed into the sea. Captain Schaffner apparently abandoned the aircraft after it had hit the sea, but despite a prolonged search he was never found and is presumed to have drowned. There is no evidence of any "unidentified aircraft" having been encountered, nor is there any reason to suppose that there is any UFO connection with what remains a tragic accident.

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED
REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 21 AUG Time:	Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/4
		Total number of pages including this one: 1
From: Sec(AS) Room 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDING	Fax Number: 0171-218-Section 40 Tel Number: 0171-218-Section 40	To: Section 40 Civil Aviation Dept. DETR	Fax Number: Section 40 Section 40
Authorised by: Rank EO Name Section 40 Appointment Sec(AS)2A1		Transmitted by: Rank AO Name Section 40 Tel Number
Signature: Section 40		Signature: Section 40

Subject: UFO — PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY.

Dear Section 40

We have received yet another UFO Parliamentary Enquiry which contains a question about the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners during the last five years.

I should be grateful if you can confirm with NATS that since we last asked the question there still have only been three such cases (in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996).

Thanks for your help.

Regards

Section 40

Section 40

confirmed no more since Jun 96.

Section 40 21/8

Classification:

Caveat:

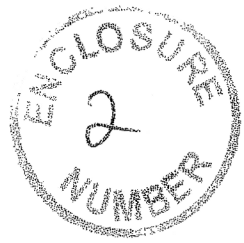
Covering:

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

21 Aug '97 14:12

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> 01	
No.	5589
Mode	NORMAL
Time	0'39"
Pages	1 Page(s)
Result	O K



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

15 Aug 97

AHB1(RAF)

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY US 3134/97: ENQUIRY INTO AN ALLEGED "OPERATION AENEID"

1. Sec(AS) is required to respond to the attached PE which asks, amongst other things, that HMG confirms the existence of a "top secret reconnaissance and surveillance operation ... around the United Kingdom to detect and intercept mysterious intruders which had penetrated British airspace...". The remainder of the PE relates to "UFOs" and I believe the article has originated from one of the many "UFO" and strange phenomena magazines currently on the market.

2. I should be grateful for your assistance with providing me some information for our background note. Is there any evidence of the existence of any British operation in the early seventies which went under the name of "Aeneid" and if so what was the true nature of the operation.

5. In order to meet the PE Unit deadline I should be grateful for anything you can offer by COP Thu 21 Aug if at all possible.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40 MB

USofS
SecCAS
UFOs

RHODRI MORGAN MP for Cardiff West

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please Quote
file 4069

4 August1997

Rt Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear George

I have received the enclosed letter from my constituent concerning UFO incidents. I wonder if there is any light you can shed on this matter with regard to this letter, and the questions my constituent raises in his suggested Parliamentary Questions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours

Rhodri

copy Section 40 [redacted]

ENC

copy Section 40 [redacted]

Correspondence to Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9SD
Tel: 01222 223207 Fax 01222 230422

Section 40
[redacted]
CARDIFF
Section 40

13th June, 97

The Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, MP
4th Floor, Transport House
1 Cathedral Road
CARDIFF
CF1 9SD

Dear Rhodri,

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article in *Focus* Magazine (June 1997, p. 70-1) which referred to a number of UFO incidents.

I would be grateful to you if you would make representations on my behalf with the appropriate government departments and ask that all documents relating to these incidents be released for public viewing.

I have also enclosed details relating to an *Operation Aeneid* which I thing the MoD should come clean on.

Please be in no doubt that craft with design and performance parameters that far exceed current state of the art technology are on occassion penetrating The UK Air Defence Region. This much is attested to in two enclosed Public Record Office Documents (AIR 20/9320 & 20/9321). I hope you will agree with me in that these alone present a case that needs answering. I have enclosed further proof in a list of Mandatory Occurrence Reports obtained from The Civil Aviation Authority.

Finally, I have enclosed a number of questions that I hope you will consider raising on my behalf in Parliament.

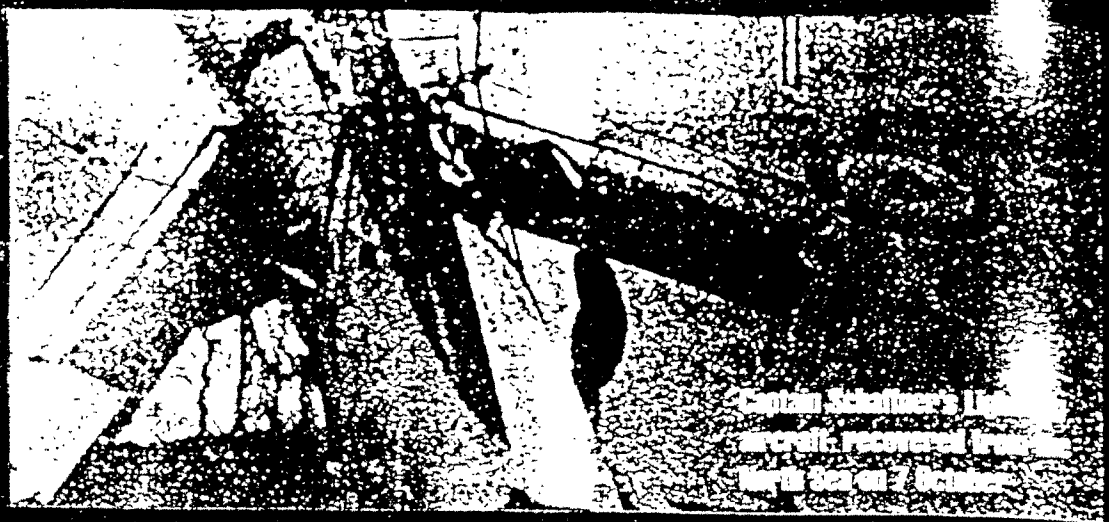
I thank you in anticipation and appreciation of any kind assistance you can offer on these matters.

Sincerely,

Section 40
[redacted]

* Only enclosed this attachment – all others not relevant.

1971



OPERATION MYSTERIOUS INTRUDERS

During 1970-71, a top secret reconnaissance and surveillance operation was undertaken in and around the United Kingdom to detect and intercept mysterious intruders which had penetrated British airspace and the sea lanes guarding NATO's flank.

'Operation Aeneid' was designed to get to the bottom of the matter and from September 1970 to March 1971, involved the Royal Air Force; United States Air Force; Royal Navy; Royal Corps of Signals; Royal Engineers; Royal Corps of Transport plus the Royal Observer Corps.

Officially, none of what you are about to read took place, because neither the British nor American governments are prepared to acknowledge there was such an operation.

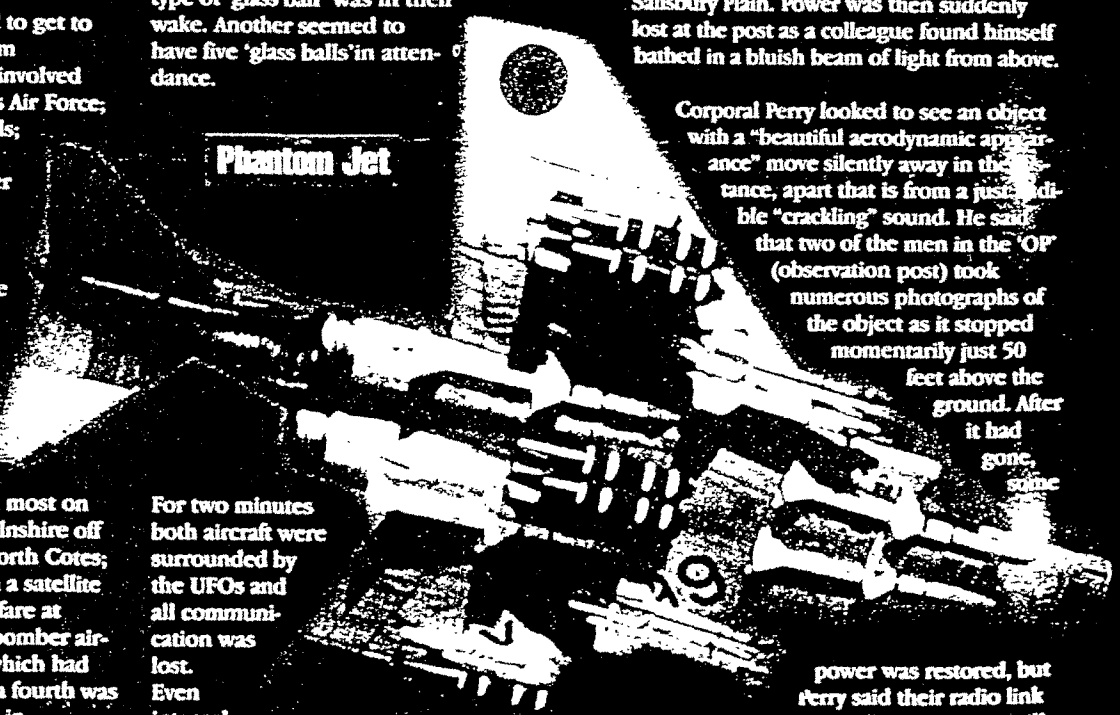
Thirty-seven secret observation sites were established throughout the United Kingdom, most on military sites - four were in Lincolnshire off the east coast. One was at RAF North Cotes; another was at RAF Strubby, then a satellite station for the College of Air Warfare at Manby; a third was the wartime bomber airfield at East Kirby, near Spilsby, which had officially closed 12 years earlier; a fourth was at Donna Nook. Other sites were in Yorkshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Each site was connected to RAF High Wycombe and RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. Information there was routed not to Cheyenne Mountain, home to NORAD HQ, but to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio.

Every remote observation post was equipped with a generator, communications, state-of-the-art cameras and night sights.
On 2 September, two US Phantom jets were scrambled from Keflavik AFB in Iceland to intercept a UFO travelling at high speed and approaching from the north-west.

As they got within seven miles of the object, the crews were warned that three further unidentified targets were about to join them.

The crews reported that three of the objects were conical in shape and some type of 'glass ball' was in their wake. Another seemed to have five 'glass balls' in attendance.



Phantom Jet

For two minutes both aircraft were surrounded by the UFOs and all communication was lost. Even internal voice radio between pilot and navigator was affected. Three of the objects finally shot off at a tremendous speed while the fourth disappeared to the north. Both aircraft managed to return safely to Keflavik.

That same day, two RAF Lightning jets were scrambled from Binbrook to intercept a UFO over the North Sea, but it withdrew at high speed before the jets could approach.

The following day, the pilot of an RAF Gnat from RAF Valley reported being 'buzzed' by a conical-shaped UFO over the Irish Sea. The pilot stated that the object appeared to be accompanied by a single glass sphere.

Five days later, Corporal Dan Perry was on duty in one of the observation posts established in Wiltshire when he saw a glowing rectangular-shaped object almost 30 feet in length move slowly above the ground over Salisbury Plain. Power was then suddenly lost at the post as a colleague found himself bathed in a bluish beam of light from above.

Corporal Perry looked to see an object with a "beautiful aerodynamic appearance" move silently away in the distance, apart that is from a just audible "crackling" sound. He said that two of the men in the 'OP' (observation post) took numerous photographs of the object as it stopped momentarily just 50 feet above the ground. After it had gone, some power was restored, but Perry said their radio link to a parent station at Hullavington was still down.

A week later, conical-shaped UFOs appeared over the missile range at RAF Benbecula in Scotland. At the same time, other UFO incidents were reported from near and afar.

One involved an Argosy transport aircraft of RAF Support Command over the Bristol Channel; another off Goose Bay in Canada when a Phantom ditched into the sea; a third off the Yorkshire coast when 11 UFOs supported by numerous 'glass-like balls' were seen and tracked by observers at Carnaby, near Bridlington, and Lisset.

Similar reports came from the Lincolnshire and Suffolk coastlines.

Captain 'Bob' Miller of the United States Air Force was in charge of a five-man observation post at Donna Nook. At 1.30pm in the afternoon, he was surprised to see an aircraft coming in low from the North Sea.

"My initial thought was that it was an aircraft, but then I remembered that the next planes were not due until 2.15pm... I watched the light for a full minute during which time it descended sharply before the light itself disappeared. I sprinted back to the hut and alerted the guys.. 'I think we've got visitors', I remember saying, trying to catch my breath."

Captain Miller said that he and the men were in the process of grabbing equipment when they saw the UFO come in from the shore.

"It was surrounded by a blue haze which would occasionally flare out with brilliant intensity. I shouted to the guys to get the camera's rolling as they stood gawping at it. The air was filled with electricity, which crackled loudly against anything metallic, including all cameras... and a strong metallic smell... like after a rainfall, permeated the air. The object was silent.

"It came slowly towards us until this enormous conical-shaped object was no more than thirty feet above our heads. It must have been at least 180 feet long, a good 20 feet wide at the far end tapering to no more than 4 feet at our end.

I realised that I was well within the area of the blue haze, yet we could see clearly, although all the hairs on my body were standing on end. There was also a feeling of weightlessness, of being top heavy."

The massive UFO turned slowly on its side and it was then that Miller and the rest of his men saw five 'glass balls' each five feet in diameter.

"As the object turned... its metallic surface... far from being smooth as in the sci-fi movies... appeared weathered and worn. How long had this thing been around? There were no port holes, no sign of organic life that I could see. As we stood there, one of the glass balls came slowly towards us until it was no more than four feet above our heads. You could see straight through it with only minimum distortion. For one crazy moment I thought of throwing a camera at it. As if reading my thought, it gracefully withdrew towards the main object. At no time was I frightened. For some reason I kept thinking about my wife and how she would never believe me, even if I was able to tell her."

The large craft and smaller objects then moved out to sea and within 30 seconds had fast disappeared.

Captain Miller said: *"Within a minute, all hell broke loose in the form of wild chatter and excitement. I was in the process of shouting the guys down, when the guys from the range control came running over... Apparently, they too had been 'visited'... a glass ball had flown right up to the windows and hovered there for a full minute... so there must have been six of 'em."*

'Operation Aeneid' had one confirmed casualty when Captain William Schaffner, a USAF pilot based at RAF Binbrook, was killed during a UFO intercept in bizarre circumstances on the night of 8 September 1970.

Captain Schaffner's Lightning aircraft was ditched into the North Sea after he came across several "conical shaped" UFOs and had said: "About 400 feet... he's still in my 3 o'clock... *Hey wait... there's something else... it's like a large soccer ball... it's like it's made of glass."*

Divers from HMS Kiddleston recovered the wreckage on 7 October and it was brought ashore at the fishing port of Grimsby. The body of Captain Schaffner was missing.

The aircraft was then taken to RAF Binbrook and isolated. When investigators from RAE Farnborough arrived, they were amazed to discover that the explosive bolts on the ejector seat were intact, as was the canopy.

Vital instruments had been removed and after only a cursory examination, American officials told them to leave. The RAF fighter was then flown out to Wright-Patterson AFB.

UFO incidents continued into 1971, but peaked on 25 January when radar station along the entire coast of Britain detected a string of radar contacts descending from 80,000 feet at speeds which increased from 600 to over 4,700mph. Here is just part of a transcript between the pilots of two RAF Lightning aircraft scrambled from RAF Leuchars in Scotland:

A - *"Can you see the glass balls in my three they're crowding me."*
B - *"Roger. Hold steady mate."*
GCI - *"Be advised, you have four targets in your four o'clock, FL-310."*
B - *"Roger, we have seen them."*
A - *"The balls have gone."*
B - *"I know the feeling."*
A - (Laughter) *"They're forming up again. They seem to move as one. I've never known such precision."*
B - *"There they go. It looks like they're for the cloud... ten o'clock."*
A - *"Let's go with them."*

Just one of many such incidents recalled by ex-military personnel who were there throughout the short life-span of 'Operation Aeneid'.

Unfortunately, for every individual who is prepared to reveal the truth, there are hundreds and possibly thousands more who still maintain a strict silence in the interests of 'national security'.

FACT

In 1971, John Hodges and Peter Rodriguez were driving near their home in Los Angeles when they came across two three-feet-tall creatures that resembled 'human brains' in appearance.

Both men suffered missing time and hypnotic regression five years later revealed that some form of abduction and mental telepathy had taken place.

This was a particularly interesting case at the time, not just because two men had allegedly shared the same abduction experience but that both related how they had been informed by their captors that implants had been inserted in abductees to heighten their psychic awareness.

Later that year Brazilian Paulo Gaetani claimed to have been abducted by a flying saucer while driving with a friend near the town of Barbacenas. He provided investigators with evidence of a small cut which he claimed came as a result of a medical examination by the aliens.

Researchers today can call on the advice and expertise of a wide range of professional and scientific personnel who collectively assist in determining the facts and authenticity behind a wide variety of UFO related claims.

Tales of alien abduction are nothing new but despite having a small army of experts to call upon definitive proof that such occurrences take place at all remains elusive to those few researchers skilled in the art of dealing with a problem that continues to trouble scores of abductees around the world.

Section 40 [redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

TO: SEC(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: US 3134 /97

MINISTER REPLYING: USQS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 20/ 8 /97

Ext agreed with Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] til COP Tue 26 AUG.

DATE: 8 / 8 /97 FROM: Section 40 [redacted] PE Unit TEL: Section 40 [redacted]

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

********* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to** Section 40 [redacted]
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) 1
08 AUG 1997
FILE

US&S
Sec(AS)
UFOs

RHODRI MORGAN MP for Cardiff West

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Please Quote
file 4069

4 August1997

Rt Hon George Robertson MP
Secretary of State Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

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copy Section 40

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copy Section 40

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Tel: 01222 223207 Fax 01222 230422

Section 40

CARDIFF
Section 40

13th June, 97

The Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, MP
4th Floor, Transport House
1 Cathedral Road
CARDIFF
CF1 9SD

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I thank you in anticipation and appreciation of any kind assistance you can offer on these matters.

Sincerely,

Section 40

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I've not written before during my time.

Section 40

PRO Docs

a209321.tif

AIR 20/9321 35087
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D.D.I.(Tech)/C.290/3/

Unidentified Objects at West Freugh

1. On the morning of April 4th radar operators at West Freugh detected unidentified objects on the screens of their radars. A summary of this incident is given below.

2. The object was first observed as a stationary return on the screen of a rdar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about 10 minutes its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 ft. A second radar was switched on and detected the "object" at the same range and height.

3. The radar sets used were capble of following objects automatically besides being manually operated. The information is obtained in the form of polar coordinates but it can be converted to give plan position indication together with heights. This information can be fed into aplotting board which displays the position of the object by means of an electronically operated pen, while the height is shown on a meter.

4. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table, each radar being switched on to the table in turn to check for discrepancies. After remaining at one spot for about ten minutes the pen moved slowly in a N.E. direction, and gradually increased speed. A speed check was taken which showed a ground speed of 70 m.p.h., the height was then 54,000 ft.

5. At this time another radar station 20 miles away, equipped with the same type ofradars, was asked to search for the "object". A echo was picked up at the range and bearing given and the radar was "locked-on".

6. After the "object" has travelled about 20 miles it made a very sharp turn and proceeded to move S.E. at the same time increasing speed. Here the reports of the two radar stations differ in details. The one at Balscalloch tracked an"object" at about 50,000 ft at a speed of about 240 m.p.h. while the other followed an "object" or "objects" at 14,000 ft. As the "objects" travelled towards the second radar site the operator detected four "objects" moving in line astern about 4,000 yards from each other. This observation was confirmed later by the other radars, for when the object they were plotting passed out of range they were able to detect four other smaller objects before they too passed out of range.

7. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. In fact they considered that the size was nearer that of a ship's echo.

8. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 ft while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 m.p.h. Nothing can be said of physical construction of the objects except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

9. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

10. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena.

/11.

11. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

a209320.tif

Reference:-
AIR 20/9320 35087
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SECRET

3A. 5141

D.D.I.(Tech)/S290/

S.6 (Mr. West)

With reference to your loose minute 511/S.6 dated 11th April, 1957, it is regretted that due to an oversight the West Freugh, Wigtownshire incident was listed twice; once as a newspaper report and once as a radar sighting under investigation. The error in listing the incidents means that there were fifteen reports this year. The newspaper reports were, in fact, only two and not three as given.

2. The four reports, amplifications of which you require, are as follows.

Radar sightings under investigation

(a) A report was received from Royal Air Force Church Lawford on 26th March, 1957 of a sighting of an unusual nature. The object move at a speed timed as exceeding 1400 m.p.h. This in itself was unusual as the object had accelerated to this speed from a stationary position. No explanation has yet been found for this sighting but supplementary report, including a copy of the radar plot, was requested and has been received from Church Lawford this afternoon.

(b) Signals from Royal Air Force Stations Bempton and Lakenheath on 19th March reported unusual responses which did not resemble those from conventional aircraft. Aircraft sent to find the object made no contact with anything in the area of the response.

The meteorological office are at present trying to find whether any unusual phenomens were observed by their stations in that area.

It is possible that the response was due to a seasonal phenomens known as "Angels" and "Anaprop" which is a result of Inversion and Reflection from the Ionosphere.

(c) Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh, Wigtownshire picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object on 4th April 1957; the object was tracked for thirty-six minutes continually increasing in speed while losing height. Enquiries, so far, reveal that no service nor commercial aircraft were in the vicinity at the time. We are at present trying to find out whether a private aircraft might have been in the area at the time.

The possibility of a balloon has been eliminated because the object was proceeding against the wind.

Newspaper Report

(d) A review by the 'Daily Worker' of a book recently published on German wartime weapons contained references to a German flying saucer which was flown at a speed of 1250 m.p.h. to a height of 40,000 ft.

3. The Wigtownshire report referred to in para 5 of our minute 3 of folder P.Q. 193/57 is the same incident as reported in the news cuttings forwarded with your minute and returned herewith.

4. It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the press. The two other radar incidents have not been made public and reached us by means of official secret channels. We suggest that S. of S. does not specifically refer to these incidents as radar sightings. We suggest that in answering the original question S. of S. might reply:-

"Of the fifteen incidents reported this year ten have been identified as conventional objects, two contain insufficient information for identification and three are under investigation."

5. If supplementary questions are asked the S. of S. might wish to refer to the answer given to Major Wall on 4th May 1955. Reports received since that date do not suggest that there need be any change in the answer given at that time.

[signature]

[illegible] TRACOCK

CAP Docs

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	DAN-AIR	G -BKAP	BRINDISI	21 JUN 82	8201671B	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED BY PILOTS.
OBJECT PASSED DOWN LEFT HAND SIDE AT SAME HEIGHT AS A/C (FL230) APPROX 2 MILES AWAY. BLACK SHINY DOUGHNUT SHAPE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CAR. OBJECT WAS TUMBLING & JUDGED TO BE STATIONARY.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
BAC 111 500	BCAL	G -AWYS	FLORENCE	18 AUG 83	8302525A	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SEEN BY CREW.
LARGE BLACK OBJECT, BALLOON SHAPED WITH LARGE WHITE SPOT ON IT, OBSERVED 10NM SE OF FIRENZA. NO ATTACHMENTS TO OBJECT. SUPP INFO: ITALIAN CAA REPLIED NO MET BALLOON COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE INDICATED PLACE OR TIME.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737	BRITANNIA	G -AVRL	AMBOISE	9 AUG 84	8402477A	P

CAA Narrative:

GREEN FLARE SEEN DESCENDING LEFT TO RIGHT STRAIGHT AHEAD AT FL300.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
TRISLANDER	KONDAIR	G -BDOS	IPSWICH	24 AUG 84	8402680D	P

CAA Narrative:

UK REPORTABLE ACCIDENT : A/C STRUCK OBJECT IN CRUISE. PROPELLER, FUSELAGE, COWLING & CONTROL RUNS DAMAGED.
THE A/C WAS FLYING IN SLIGHT TURBULENCE WHEN A BUMP WAS FELT. JUST BEFORE DESCENT THE RIGHT ENGINE CONTROL WAS FOUND TO BE SEIZED SO AN ASYMMETRIC APPROACH & LANDING WAS EXECUTED. ON INSPECTION IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE LEFT PROPELLER HAD STRUCK AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT, PROPELLING IT THROUGH THE CABIN ROOF, WITH A PIECE EXITING THROUGH A WINDOW. THERE WERE SEVERAL HOLES IN THE FUSELAGE & DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE, AILERON & RUDDER TRIM CABLES. THREE PIECES OF FOREIGN METALLIC OBJECT WERE FOUND, INCLUDING A SMALL CYLINDRICAL MAGNET. THE UFO HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. (AIB BULLETIN 10/84). SEE DIGEST 84/D/43.
CAA CLOSURE: NO INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING NATURE OR ORIGIN OF UFO.

PTO

SYSMAC3 28 APR 97 PAGE : 1

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	BRITANNIA	G-BAZG	NR LEEDS	5 JUL 78	7802646F	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED BRIGHT LIGHT SEEN 11 O'CLOCK ABOVE

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727 -100	DAN-AIR	G-BAJW	VICENZA	19 SEP 79	7904369X	P

CAA Narrative:

UFO OBSERVED PASSING 200FT BELOW A C
MILAN CONTROL REPORTED "NO TRAFFIC.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BCDA	VICENZA	11 JUN 80	8003311C	P

CAA Narrative:

UFO PASSED CLOSE TO SUBJECT AIRCRAFT
OBJECT APPEARED TO BE LIKE A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DROP TANK.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BHNE	LYON	13 FEB 81	8100542C	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN OBJECT SEEN ON A C RADAR
A SIZEABLE OVAL SHAPED TARGET APPEARED ON RADAR CENTRE-LINE AT LIMIT OF RANGE
TRACKING TOWARDS A/C AT VERY HIGH SPEED.NO VISUAL SIGHTING MADE.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G -BKCG	DINKELSBUHI	12 JUN 82	8201614C	S

CAA Narrative:

LARGE TRANSLUCENT OBJECT, APPROX 500FT LONG, OBSERVED AT 41000FT.
ATCC REQUESTED SUBJECT A/C TO INVESTIGATE THIS OBJECT WHICH WAS FOUND TO HAVE
THE FORM OF A DOUBLE RECTANGLE SURMOUNTED BY A GLOBE (EGG SHAPE) CROWNED BY A
SILVER CONE. OBJECT OBSERVED BY ALL ON BOARD.

Focus June '97

Britain's Area 51 revealed... UFOs in military zones

RAF Neatishead, Norfolk
Late October/Early November 1980
A UFO was tracked by radar during night-flying exercises by RAF Phantoms. The uncorrelated target was stationary at 5,000 ft. It then made a series of incredible manoeuvres and jumped to an altitude in excess of 90,000 ft before disappearing. One of the Phantoms was tasked with intercepting the UFO and got to within half a mile of "a very bright light," but before the aircraft could get any closer, the object flew off.

RAF/USAF Woodbridge/ Bentwaters, Suffolk
27-29 December 1980
Strange lights in nearby Rendlesham Forest were investigated by USAF patrolmen. As they approached the source of these lights they noted it was a metallic triangular shape roughly three metres across the base and standing around two metres high.

Unable to determine whether it was hovering or on legs of some kind, their report describes a pulsing red light on the top of the craft with a bank of blue lights underneath. Before they could get any closer it began to move through the trees and vanished.

The following day three depressions were found in the ground where the sighting took place and subsequent independent analysis indicated 10 times the normal level of background radiation in the centre of where the object had been.

Later in the night a moving, pulsing sun-like light was seen to throw off glowing particles before breaking into pieces that shot skywards and remaining there for some time, darting about and emitting red, green and blue lights. These events were witnessed by several military personnel including the Deputy Base Commander who audio taped a dramatic commentary during his search and filed his official report outlining the events. However, other eye witnesses spoke of even more fantastic happenings including a 30 ft wide 20 ft tall vehicle landing in a nearby field.

TRH Pictures

RAF/USAF Bentwaters/ Lakenheath, Suffolk
13 August 1956
An uncorrelated target was picked up over the North Sea heading toward the airfield at a speed of over 4,000 mph. Twenty miles inland it disappeared.

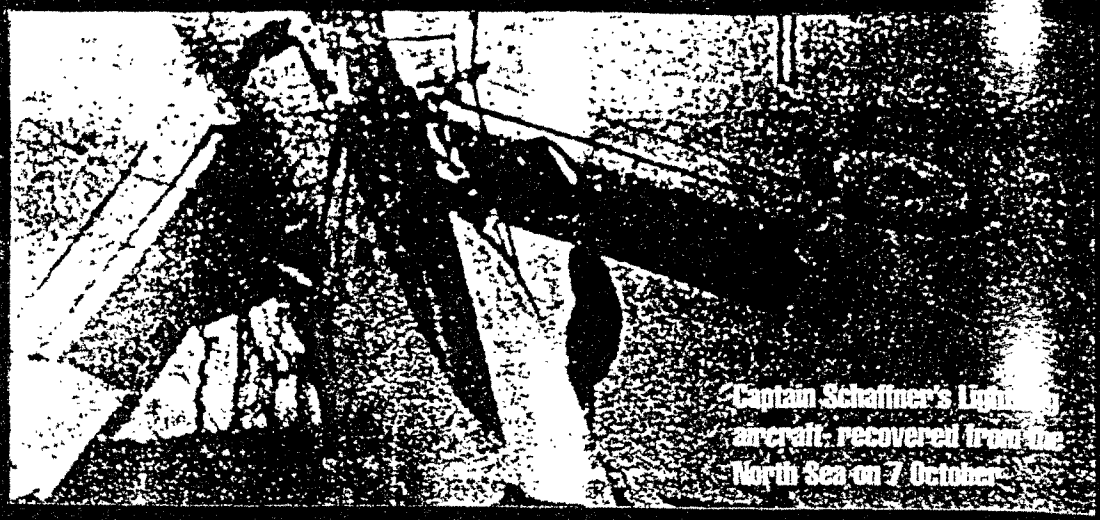
At the same time, a second contact was made with a group of slow moving targets and a T-33 fighter was directed to intercept, but without radar it was unable to find them. The targets hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, then began moving again, hovered briefly, then disappeared off the screens.

Later, a Venom fighter was scrambled. The target was tracked by separate ground systems and the interceptor was vectored towards it. As the Venom closed in, its own radar obtained a 'lock,' but the pilot lost contact. Ground staff advised the pilot that the UFO was now behind him and appeared to be giving chase. A second Venom was scrambled but before it arrived, the UFO had disappeared.

Aldershot, Hampshire
12 August 1983
A local historian and keen angler noticed a vivid light moving towards him as he fished on a canal bank. The bright light went out, but he was still aware of some illumination. Suddenly two, four-feet-tall beings approached and beckoned him to follow them. Amazingly he did, and found himself climbing into a 40ft disc. He was made to stand under an amber light for minutes before being told: "You can go. You are too old and infirm for our purposes."

Pennines, 8-9 miles SE Manchester Airport
6 January 1995
A Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, encountered a high speed, wedge-shaped craft as it approached Manchester airport on a flight from Milan. The captain reported that the UFO had small white lights and a black stripe down one side and flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot involuntarily ducked. The crew had it in sight for a total of about two seconds. There was no apparent sound or wake.

1971



Captain Schaffner's Lightning aircraft: recovered from the North Sea on 7 October.

GREAT BRITAIN'S MYSTERIOUS INTRUDERS

During 1970-71, a top secret reconnaissance and surveillance operation was undertaken in and around the United Kingdom to detect and intercept mysterious intruders which had penetrated British airspace and the sea lanes guarding NATO's flank.

'Operation Aeneid' was designed to get to the bottom of the matter and from September 1970 to March 1971, involved the Royal Air Force; United States Air Force; Royal Navy; Royal Corps of Signals; Royal Engineers; Royal Corps of Transport plus the Royal Observer Corps.

Officially, none of what you are about to read took place, because neither the British nor American governments are prepared to acknowledge there was such an operation.

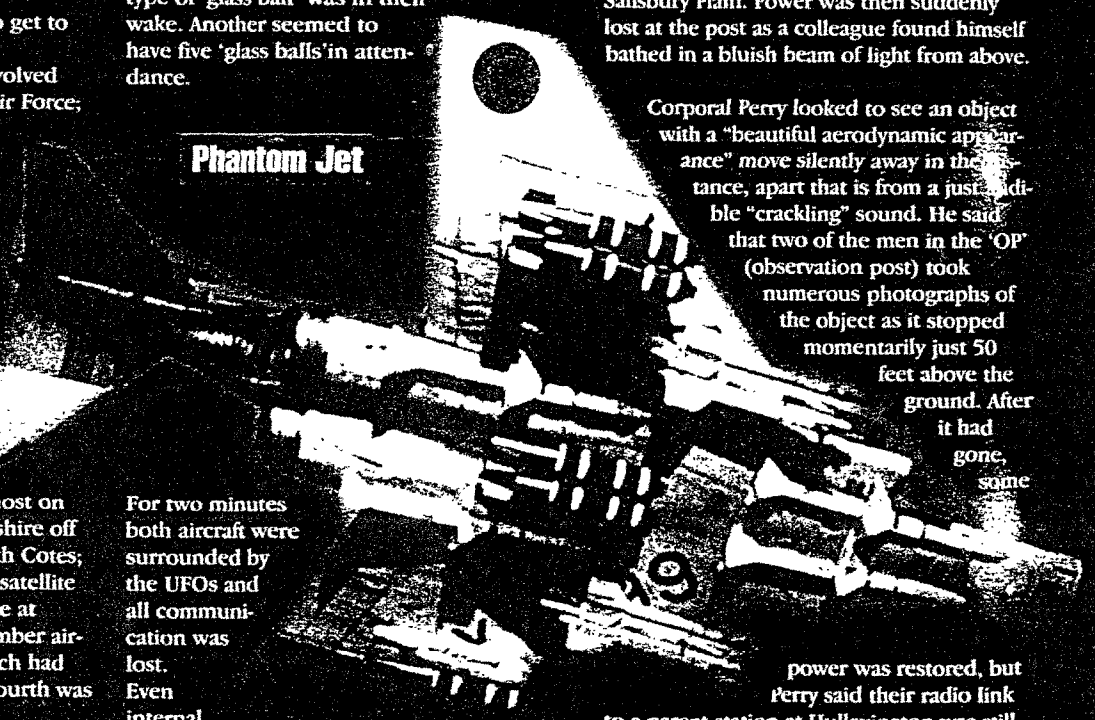
Thirty-seven secret observation sites were established throughout the United Kingdom, most on military sites - four were in Lincolnshire off the east coast. One was at RAF North Cotes; another was at RAF Strubby, then a satellite station for the College of Air Warfare at Manby; a third was the wartime bomber airfield at East Kirby, near Spilsby, which had officially closed 12 years earlier; a fourth was at Donna Nook. Other sites were in Yorkshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Each site was connected to RAF High Wycombe and RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire. Information there was routed not to Cheyenne Mountain, home to NORAD HQ, but to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio.

Every remote observation post was equipped with a generator, communications, state-of-the-art cameras and night sights.
On 2 September, two US Phantom jets were scrambled from Keflavik AFB in Iceland to intercept a UFO travelling at high speed and approaching from the north-west.

As they got within seven miles of the object, the crews were warned that three further unidentified targets were about to join them.

The crews reported that three of the objects were conical in shape and some type of 'glass ball' was in their wake. Another seemed to have five 'glass balls'in attendance.



Phantom Jet

For two minutes both aircraft were surrounded by the UFOs and all communication was lost. Even internal voice radio between pilot and navigator was affected. Three of the objects finally shot off at a tremendous speed while the fourth disappeared to the north. Both aircraft managed to return safely to Keflavik.

That same day, two RAF Lightning jets were scrambled from Binbrook to intercept a UFO over the North Sea, but it withdrew at high speed before the jets could approach.

The following day, the pilot of an RAF Gnat from RAF Valley reported being 'buzzed' by a conical-shaped UFO over the Irish Sea. The pilot stated that the object appeared to be accompanied by a single glass sphere.

Five days later, Corporal Dan Perry was on duty in one of the observation posts established in Wiltshire when he saw a glowing rectangular-shaped object almost 30 feet in length move slowly above the ground over Salisbury Plain. Power was then suddenly lost at the post as a colleague found himself bathed in a bluish beam of light from above.

Corporal Perry looked to see an object with a "beautiful aerodynamic appearance" move silently away in the distance, apart that is from a just audible "crackling" sound. He said that two of the men in the 'OP' (observation post) took numerous photographs of the object as it stopped momentarily just 50 feet above the ground. After it had gone, some power was restored, but Perry said their radio link to a parent station at Hullavington was still down.

A week later, conical-shaped UFOs appeared over the missile range at RAF Benbecula in Scotland. At the same time, other UFO incidents were reported from near and afar.

One involved an Argosy transport aircraft of RAF Support Command over the Bristol Channel; another off Goose Bay in Canada when a Phantom ditched into the sea; a third off the Yorkshire coast when 11 UFOs supported by numerous 'glass-like balls' were seen and tracked by observers at Carnaby, near Bridlington, and Lisset.

Similar reports came from the Lincolnshire and Suffolk coastlines.

Captain 'Bob' Miller of the United States Air Force was in charge of a five-man observation post at Donna Nook. At 1.30pm in the afternoon, he was surprised to see an aircraft coming in low from the North Sea.

"My initial thought was that it was an aircraft, but then I remembered that the next planes were not due until 2.15pm... I watched the light for a full minute during which time it descended sharply before the light itself disappeared. I sprinted back to the hut and alerted the guys.. 'I think we've got visitors', I remember saying, trying to catch my breath."

Captain Miller said that he and the men were in the process of grabbing equipment when they saw the UFO come in from the shore.

"It was surrounded by a blue haze which would occasionally flare out with brilliant intensity. I shouted to the guys to get the camera's rolling as they stood gawping at it. The air was filled with electricity, which crackled loudly against anything metallic, including all cameras... and a strong metallic smell... like after a rainfall, permeated the air. The object was silent.

"It came slowly towards us until this enormous conical-shaped object was no more than thirty feet above our heads. It must have been at least 180 feet long, a good 20 feet wide at the far end tapering to no more than 4 feet at our end.

"I realised that I was well within the area of the blue haze, yet we could see clearly, although all the hairs on my body were standing on end. There was also a feeling of weightlessness, of being top heavy."

The massive UFO turned slowly on its side and it was then that Miller and the rest of his men saw five 'glass balls' each five feet in diameter.

"As the object turned... its metallic surface... Far from being smooth as in the sci-fi movies... appeared weathered and worn. How long had this thing been around? There were no port holes, no sign of organic life that I could see. As we stood there, one of the glass balls came slowly towards us until it was no more than four feet above our heads. You could see straight through it with only minimum distortion. For one crazy moment I thought of throwing a camera at it. As if reading my thought, it gracefully withdrew towards the main object.
"At no time was I frightened. For some reason I kept thinking about my wife and how she would never believe me, even if I was able to tell her."

The large craft and smaller objects then moved out to sea and within 30 seconds had fast disappeared.

Captain Miller said: *"Within a minute, all hell broke loose in the form of wild chatter and excitement. I was in the process of shouting the guys down, when the guys from the range control came running over... Apparently, they too had been 'visited'... a glass ball had flown right up to the windows and hovered there for a full minute... so there must have been six of 'em."*

'Operation Aeneid' had one confirmed casualty when Captain William Schaffner, a USAF pilot based at RAF Binbrook, was killed during a UFO intercept in bizarre circumstances on the night of 8 September 1970.

Captain Schaffner's Lightning aircraft was ditched into the North Sea after he came across several "conical shaped" UFOs and had said: "About 400 feet... he's still in my 3 o'clock... *Hey wait... there's something else... it's like a large soccer ball... it's like it's made of glass."*

Divers from HMS Kiddleston recovered the wreckage on 7 October and it was brought ashore at the fishing port of Grimsby. The body of Captain Schaffner was missing.

The aircraft was then taken to RAF Binbrook and isolated. When investigators from RAE Farnborough arrived, they were amazed to discover that the explosive bolts on the ejector seat were intact, as was the canopy.

Vital instruments had been removed and after only a cursory examination, American officials told them to leave. The RAF fighter was then flown out to Wright-Patterson AFB.

UFO incidents continued into 1971, but peaked on 25 January when radar station along the entire coast of Britain detected a string of radar contacts descending from 80,000 feet at speeds which increased from 600 to over 4,700mph. Here is just part of a transcript between the pilots of two RAF Lightning aircraft scrambled from RAF Leuchars in Scotland:

A - *"Can you see the glass balls in my three they're crowding me."*
B - *"Roger. Hold steady mate."*
GCI - *"Be advised, you have four targets in your four o'clock, FL-310."*
B - *"Roger, we have seen them."*
A - *"The balls have gone."*
B - *"I know the feeling."*
A - (Laughter) *"They're forming up again. They seem to move as one. I've never known such precision."*
B - *"There they go. It looks like they're for the cloud... ten o'clock."*
A - *"Let's go with them."*

Just one of many such incidents recalled by ex-military personnel who were there throughout the short life-span of 'Operation Aeneid'.

Unfortunately, for every individual who is prepared to reveal the truth, there are hundreds and possibly thousands more who still maintain a strict silence in the interests of 'national security'.

FACT

In 1971, John Hodges and Peter Rodriguez were driving near their home in Los Angeles when they came across two three-feet-tall creatures that resembled 'human brains' in appearance.

Both men suffered missing time and hypnotic regression five years later revealed that some form of abduction and mental telepathy had taken place.

This was a particularly interesting case at the time, not just because two men had allegedly shared the same abduction experience, but that both related how they had been informed by their captors that 'implants' had been inserted in abductees to heighten their psychic awareness.

Later that year, Brazilian Paulo Gaetano claimed to have been abducted by a flying saucer while driving with a friend near the town of Bananeiras. He provided investigators with evidence of a small cut which he claimed came as a result of a medical examination by the aliens.

Researchers today can call on the advice and expertise of a wide range of professional and scientific personnel who voluntarily assist in determining the facts and authenticity behind a wide variety of UFO-related claims.

Tales of alien abduction are nothing new, but despite having a small army of experts to call upon, definitive proof that such occurrences take place at all remains elusive to those few researchers skilled in the art of dealing with a problem that continues to trouble scores of 'abductees' around the world.

Questions to be tabled in Parliament

To ask the Prime Minister and The Secretary of State for Defence, (i) if they will make it their policy to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena with a broader scientific base given the numerous incursions into UK airspace by unidentified craft and (ii) if they will agree that the argument that these incidents are of no defence significance can no longer be sustained.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department accept that based on evidence such as that given by Lt Colonel Charles Halt on The Rendlesham Forest Incident, material contained in numerous Mandatory Occurrence Reports reported to The Civil Aviation Authority and the fact that his Department receives up to five-hundred reports a year relating to unidentified craft that (i) the UK airspace has been penetrated on occasion by unidentified craft whose performance characteristics far exceed cutting edge technology and (ii) that the best available evidence supports the hypothesis that these craft are of extraterrestrial origin; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he make it his policy to establish a Civil Defence capability of the United Kingdom to accommodate more detailed reporting of unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (i) How many reports of unidentified craft have police forces dealt with in the last (a) year, (b) five years, (c) twenty years, (ii) how many of these incidents were witnessed by police officers and (iii) were any of these incidents recorded (a) on camera or (b) as video footage and (iv) if recorded, are they available for public scrutiny; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, (i) does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and manoeuvrability far exceed current state of the art aircraft design and (ii) how many records of near misses and sightings of unidentified craft in United Kingdom airspace by civilian airliners does his department hold; and if he will make a statement.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MOD Form 174D

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 18

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. 5

DATE OPENED 22 AUG 97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT: PE: US 3123/97

MP: TERRY ROONEY

CONST: Section 40 [redacted].

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

SEC(AS)20

64/4

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

Terry Rooney Esq MP
2nd Floor
76 Kirkgate
Bradford
BD1 1SZ

D/US of S/JS 3123/97/M

3 September 1997

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August to George Robertson enclosing one from your constituent, Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted] Bradford, about events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The thrust of your constituent's original letter to my officials (copy attached) was that the United Kingdom's airspace had been breached by unknown craft in December 1980 and his concern for the threat this had posed. In reply, my officials sought to reassure him that there was no evidence to justify this assertion. I can assure you that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec (AS) I
08 SEP 1997
FILE

Recycled Paper

Lt Col Halt's memorandum was assessed by officials in my Department responsible for air defence matters at the time. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken. Nevertheless the incident continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books, magazine articles and the media, most recently marking the 50th anniversary of the first "UFO" sighting in 1947.

It is quite clear that the additional points raised by Section 40 Section 40 in his original letter are not relevant to his main issue of concern. However, for completeness you may find the following information of interest:

(a) My Department does not comment on the presence or otherwise of nuclear weapons now, or in the past, at any location.

(b) We have no information about suicide rates at RAF Bentwaters.

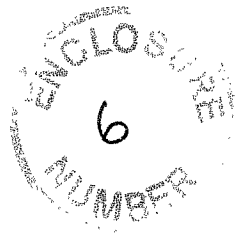
(c) RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield; the married quarters there have been sold to Annington Homes. RAF Bentwaters was sold to Bentwaters Investments Limited on 15 May this year.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

21 Aug 97

PE Unit
(thro [redacted])

Section 40

2/8

LETTER FROM TERRY ROONEY MP - US 3123/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Terry Rooney MP. Mr Rooney's constituent, Section 40 [redacted], wrote to Sec(AS) on 10 July about the events at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 (copy attached) and appears not to accept the response he received from the Department (copy enclosed with the MP's letter).

2. The alleged incidents to which Mr Rooney refers occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A memorandum of the sighting, which reported unusual lights in the sky and which was raised by Lt Col Charles Halt nearly two weeks after the events (copy enclosed with MP's letter), was forwarded to the MOD shortly thereafter by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings. Nevertheless, the incident continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books, magazine articles and television programmes. We continue to receive a steady stream of correspondence on the subject.

3. In our reply to Mr Rooney's constituent we explained that all available evidence was examined at the time and the Department was satisfied that nothing of defence concern occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which calls the original judgement into question. This remains the case.

4. We did not include details of the MOD's policy on reports of "unidentified flying objects" and how they are dealt with since Mr Rooney's constituent did not specifically raise this point. Providing this information now in the reply to the MP at this stage will clarify our original statement; namely that as there was no evidence of an incursion of UK airspace by hostile foreign military activity, no further military action was deemed necessary.

5. The only points in the original letter which were not specifically addressed at the time were:

(a) whether (as Section 40 [redacted]'s asserts) the "fact" that nuclear devices were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF

Woodbridge was against a treaty between the US and UK Governments;

(b) whether any study was carried out to find out why RAF Bentwaters had the highest incidence of suicides of any NATO base after the events of 27-29 Dec 80; and

(c) the current status of RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters.

6. By including a copy of Col Halt's memorandum with the letter to his MP the constituent is, as we anticipated at the time, seeking to link the "UFO" phenomenon with other, completely unrelated defence issues, something we had hoped to avoid. The facts are:

(a) It is not Departmental policy either to confirm or deny the presence either in the past or at present of nuclear weapons at any site.

(b) Having consulted HQ3AF (USAF) staff in the UK, there is no evidence to suggest a higher rate of suicides at RAF Bentwaters following events of 27-29 Dec 80. We do not consider that the nature of this enquiry warrants a direct approach to the US government for any further information on this point.

(c) RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield and therefore remains MOD freehold. The married quarters have been sold to Annington Homes on a leaseback arrangement. RAF Bentwaters was sold on 15 May 97, with the benefit of outline planning consent for a new development, to Bentwaters Investments Limited. We understand that the new owners intend to broadly follow the plan set out in the planning consent with the addition of airfield use, which would be subject to a further planning application.

7. The draft reply to Mr Rooney now provides this additional information.

8. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D/US/3123/97 August 1997

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JOHN SPELLAR

Terry Rooney MP

10/7/97

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
16 JUL 1997
FILE

Section 40

Bridgend

Section 40

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am enquiring about the events that happened at RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge over three nights in late December 1980. No doubt you recieve many letters about this case.

I am in little doubt that a large ammount of nuclear weapons were stored at these airbases.

If any of these nuclear devices were adversley effected at any time by whatever means would this Constitute defence Concern by the MOD? The evidence I have seen and heard Suggests this was the case, is this at least not potentially dangerous? I realise that many years have passed Since the Strange lights and objects were reported by highly trained personell, but if new evidence was forth-coming would you look at the Case again?

It Seems that Craft of unknown origin beamed down beams of light onto the hardened bunkers and furthermore penetr-ted the nuclear devices. It alarms me that of all the defences we have in place it was possible to penetrate these defences Especially at a nuclear Storage depot. There were at least fifty witness's to these bizzare events in and around Rendlesham forest and

Col Green, could all these witness's be wrong?

Is it true, that the fact that these nuclear devices were stored at these bases was against a treaty between the American goverment and our own?

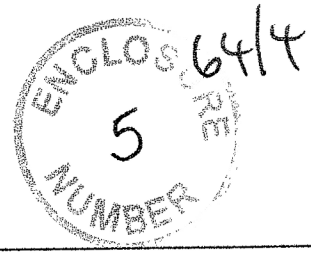
Was any study done to find out why Bentwaters our fore base had the highest rate of suicides of any NATO base after these strange events had happened?

I understand that the bases have now been sold by the MOD, could you tell me to whom and do you know what plans they possibly have to develop the sites?

Thankyou for reading my letter,

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]



DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
21/08/97	Parliamentary Engu	US 3123/97	[ ]

Sent: 21/08/97 at 16:39
To: Parliamentary Enquiries
CC:

Ref: 1311
Subject: US 3123/97

Text: The attached has been seen and signed off by Section 40 .

The attachment referred to in the background note (which also needs to be enclosed with the reply to the MP) will be walked down separately to the PE Unit, tomorrow morning.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]

Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

21 Aug 97

PE Unit
(thro Section 40 [redacted])

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(a) It is not Departmental policy either to confirm or deny the presence either in the past or at present of nuclear weapons at any site.

(b) Having consulted HQ3AF (USAF) staff in the UK, there is no evidence to suggest a higher rate of suicides at RAF Bentwaters following events of 27-29 Dec 80. We do not consider that the nature of this enquiry warrants a direct approach to the US government for any further information on this point.

(c) RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield and therefore remains MOD freehold. The married quarters have been sold to Annington Homes on a leaseback arrangement. RAF Bentwaters was sold on 15 May 97, with the benefit of outline planning consent for a new development, to Bentwaters Investments Limited. We understand that the new owners intend to broadly follow the plan set out in the planning consent with the addition of airfield use, which would be subject to a further planning application.

7. The draft reply to Mr Rooney now provides this additional information.

8. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

[original signed]

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D/US/3123/97 August 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson of 4 August enclosing correspondence from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], Bradford about events which are alleged to have occurred at RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

The thrust of your constituent's original letter to my officials (copy attached) was that the United Kingdom's airspace had been breached by unknown craft in December 1980 and his concern for the threat this had posed. In reply, my officials sought to reassure him that there was no evidence to justify this

assertion. I can assure you that the integrity of the United Kingdom's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force which remains vigilant for any potential military threat.

Col Halt's memorandum was assess by staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters at the time. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken. Nevertheless the incident continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books, magazine articles and the media, most recently marking the 50th anniversary of the first "UFO" sighting in 1947.

It is quite clear that the additional points raised by your constituent in his original letter are not relevant to his main issue of concern. However, for completeness you may find the following information of interest:

(a) My Department does not comment on the presence or otherwise of nuclear weapons now, or in the past, at any location;

(b) We have no information about suicide rates at RAF Bentwaters.

(c) RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield; the married

quarters there have been sold to Annington Homes. RAF Bentwaters was sold to Bentwaters Investments Limited on 15 May this year.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Terry Rooney MP

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 4

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
18/08/97	SEC(AS)1B (9)	INPUT INTO PE BACKGROUND NOTE	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 18/08/97 at 10:40 Delivered: 18/08/97 at 10:40
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 1079
From: SEC(AS)1B (9) Auth by:
Subject: INPUT INTO PE BACKGROUND NOTE

Text: Section 40 HQ3AF do not seem to have any information on the 'suicides' at Bentwaters. It looks as though the information, if any, has gone back to Washington years ago. They did say that they knew somebody at HQ3AF who was around Bentwaters in the early 1980's and could probably remember something(!) - although he won't be in until tomorrow afternoon. PTO!

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

As such, I don't think this is worth waiting for. After 17 odd years his memory will be slightly sketchy and at best unreliable. Furthermore, it would not be official information. If you really want to mention the correspondents point about suicides then something along the following lines might be useful:-

'As to suicides amongst personnel of the US armed forces, this is a matter for the Government of the United States.'

The US authorities are still going to have a word with the chap tomorrow and I'll let you know if he comes up with anything useful.

As to the other point on nuclear weapons. As we discussed, the line will be:-

'It is not the Departments policy to either confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site, either past or present.'

That's the policy line and I guess you'll have to play around with it a little so that it fits in with the rest of the Background Note.

I hope this is useful but give me a call if you need anything further or clarification of any point. Thank you very much.

Section 40

644

Ministry of Defence
DEFENCE ESTATE ORGANISATION
Blakemore Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 7RL
Telephone: Direct Dialling Section 40
ATN Sutton Coldfield 742 + Ext
Switchboard 0121-311 1262
Fax Section 40
Video Conferencing

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Sec(AS)2
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Your Reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Our Reference
D/DEO(CS)5/2
Date
August 1997

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - RAF WOODBRIDGE AND RAF BENTWATERS

Reference:

Letter D/Sec(AS)/64/4 dated 13 August 1997.

As requested, background information on RAF Woodbridge and Bentwaters, for use as appropriate.

Section 40

DEO(CS)/AD(ES)
Section 40

Telefax
To: Section 40 Sec(AS)2
Fax:
From: Section 40 DEO Sec
Date: 19 Aug 97 Pages: 2

HP/W

RAF WOODBRIDGE AND RAF BENTWATERS

RAF Woodbridge is occupied by the Army in connection with their activities at Wattisham Airfield and therefore remains MOD freehold. The married quarters have been sold to Annington Homes on a leaseback arrangement.

RAF Bentwaters was sold on 15 May 1997, with the benefit of outline planning consent for a new development, to Bentwaters Investments Limited. It is understood that the new owners intend to broadly follow the plan set out in the planning consent with the addition of airfield use, which would be subject to a further planning application.

dft

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Defence Estate Organisation (Lands)
DEO(L)(Sec)/Admin

Attn: Section 40

=== by fax ===

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date
13 August 1997

RAF WOODBRIDGE AND RAF BENTWATERS - PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

1. Sec(AS)2 is required to draft a response to a Parliamentary Enquiry relating to "unexplained" lights which were observed by USAF personnel on the nights of 27-29 Dec 80 in Rendlesham Forest close to RAF Woodbridge. The alleged events, which occurred over 16 years ago, still attract a significant amount of media attention and interest from the "UFO" fraternity.

2. To assist me with the background note I should be grateful if you would be able to provide me with the following information:

(1) To whom did the MOD sell RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters and when.

(2) Do we know what plans they have to develop the sites.

3. Happy to discuss further if any of the above needs clarification. With apologies for the tight deadline but could I have anything you are able to offer by COP 19 Aug please?

Section 40

SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) 2A1

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission:
—	Date: 13 AUGUST 97 Time:

Document Reference: 64/4
Total number of pages including this one: 2

From:	Fax Number:
SEC(AS)2A Section 40	X Section 40 MB Tel Number: X Section 40 MB

To:	Fax Number:
DEO(L) (Secretariat) Section 40	Section 40

Authorised by:		
Rank	Name	Appointment
EO	Section 40	

Transmitted by:		
Rank	Name	Tel Number
AO	Section 40	

Signature:	Signature:

Subject: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

13 Aug '97 11:26

Secretariat(Air Staff)--->	
No.	5482
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'01"
Pages	2 Page(s)
Result	O K

Section 40 [redacted]

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

TO: Sec(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: US3123/97

MINISTER REPLYING: USofS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 20/8/97

DATE: 8/8/97 FROM: Section 40 [redacted] PE Unit TEL: Section 40 [redacted]

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

********* IMPORTANT UPDATES *********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: **PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, otherwise send drafts by fax to Section 40 [redacted] MB**
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE 08 AUG 97 FILE

USAS
Sec(4s)
UFOs

2nd Floor
76 Kirkgate
Bradford
BD1 1SZ

Tel: Section 40
Fax:

4th August 1997

Rt.Hon.G.Robertson MP
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Dear George,

I have been contacted by a constituent regarding incidents at RAF Woodbridge in 1980 which he has raised with officials. I enclose copy of their response which I find typical Civil Service newspeak but also enclose copy of a statemernt by Lt.Col. Charles Halt of the USAF who was Deputy Base Commander at the time. You will notice the completely contrasting version of events and I would appreciate your comments.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Terry Rooney MP
Bradford North

(Labour MP)

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Section 40

Bradford.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
22 July 1997

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter of 10 July in which you have enquired about an alleged incident at RAF Woodbridge.

2. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 16 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

3. I hope this explains our position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(409)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

being taken to ensure that future officer intakes reflect the educational provision of the UK; and if he will make a statement. [12006]

Mr. Spellar: My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Computers (Century Date Change)

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding is presently committed from his departmental budget for *(a)* 1997–98, *(b)* 1998–99 and *(c)* 1999–2000 to resolve 2000 computer problem; and if he will make a statement. [11900]

Mr. Spellar: In accordance with guidelines issued by the Cabinet Office and the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency Year 2000 Public Sector Group, my Department is examining its computer systems to determine their susceptibility, if any, to the year 2000 problem and to produce plans for the necessary modifications. The estimated costs of these modifications will not be available until later this year. My Department has also stressed the importance of this issue to industry. For all new procurements the Department is insisting year 2000 compliance as a condition of contract.

Document AIR 2/16918

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department withdrew AIR 2/16918 from the Public Record Office; which offices within his Department consulted the document; on what date the document was received from and returned to the Public Record Office; and if he will make a statement. [12239]

Mr. Spellar: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Chemical Weapons

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment of the medical effects of the CS gas solvent, methyl isobutyl ketone has been made by officials of his Department since 1990; how many published or internal reports have been written on this subject by his Department's medical officers since 1990; and how many of these reports are currently unclassified. [12176]

Mr. Spellar: I will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Abbeywood

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list in respect of Abbeywood *(a)* the number of part-time and full-time employees, *(b)* the totals of (i) wages and salaries, (ii) national insurance and (iii) pensions in respect of each category, *(c)* the totals of (1) travel costs and (2) housing costs in respect of all employees at Abbeywood and *(d)* all expenditure on Abbeywood broken down by category in 1996–97; and what was the total of expenditure listed in (d) as a percentage of that year's total Ministry of Defence outturn. [11597]

Mr. Spellar: The major occupier of the Abbeywood site is the Procurement Executive with 3,999 full-time and 74 part-time employees. Sharing the site is the Ships Support Agency with 754 full-time and 12 part-time employees.

Costs related to the specific categories requested are not readily available and will require further investigation. I will write to the hon. Member with further information when it is available and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of the biological detection system vehicles operated by the 1 field laboratory unit during the Gulf war *(a)* arrived at their destination with scientific equipment damaged and *(b)* were repaired to full operational capability by the end of the conflict; and if he will make a statement; [11879]

(2) in what form were samples collected by the Sandfly air sampling system on each of the nine vehicles of the 1 field laboratory unit in the Gulf war *(a)* recorded and *(b)* stored; and where those samples and records are currently kept. [11596]

Dr. Reid: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all papers prepared by Dr. Coker for his Department's Gulf war illness inquiries; and if he will place in the Library copies of all reports. [12018]

Mr. Spellar: Group Captain Coker published a paper on the results from the first 284 patients seen by the MoD's medical assessment programme (MAP) in the summer 1996 edition of the Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service ("A Review of Gulf War Illness"). I have arranged for a copy of this paper to be placed in the Library of the House.

In late 1996 the group captain prepared the first draft of a paper concerning the results from some 500 MAP patients. However, in the event work on this draft paper was never completed.

Doctors at the MAP have now seen 1,520 patients and the Government have undertaken to publish detailed results form the programme later this year. Group Captain Coker will be closely involved with this work, which will supersede his ealrier draft paper.

Hadleigh

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has closed its site on the outskirts of Hadleigh in Suffolk; when this site was first opened by the Ministry of Defence; and what was its function. [12103]

Mr. Spellar: The reasons for closing ammunition compound Hadleigh were, as the site is in close proximity to residential development, the explosive licences issued were so restrictive and therefore the full range of ammunition required by units based in East Anglia could not be stored. The cost of running the site was high as the movement of ammunition in to and out of the storage

64/6

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 16

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
13/08/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 13/08/97 at 14:54 Delivered: 13/08/97 at 14:55
To: Parliamentary Questions
CC: Hd of CS(RM),SEC(AS)2A (2)
Ref: 421
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

Text: The attached draft reply has been cleared by Section 40, Hd CS(RM).

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

August 1997

Parliamentary Questions

Copy to:
Sec(AS)
PRO/GSD

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

1. The question concerned the reasons a particular record had been borrowed from the Public Record Office by the MOD, who consulted the file whilst on loan and the period of loan. The file - **AIR 2/16918** - was released into the public domain in 1994 and consists of unidentified flying object reports from members of the public to the then Air Ministry.

2. For most of 1996 and the early part of 1997 this file was not available to Readers at the Public Record Office. It has since been the subject of correspondence from various members of the public who believe its non-availability at Kew is part of some sinister MOD plot. There is also some confusion in the minds of the public about AIR 2/16918 which is a file and not a document.

3. Three persistent "UFO" correspondents have individually written to MOD officials (Sec(AS) and CS(RM)) about this file and there is every indication that they go to great lengths to compare responses to their questions seeking "evidence" to support their claims of a cover-up. The three individuals; Section 40 (Mr Jones' constituent), Section 40 and Section 40 are voluminous correspondents, writing to the Department on numerous occasions over the last few years. They refuse to accept that the Department has a limited interest in the subject of "UFOs" and their aim, especially in the case of Section 40, is to stimulate Parliamentary interest in the subject and, hopefully, Government sponsored research into "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. Section 40 Section 40 is a Section 40 and has offered his services in this respect.

4. This is not the first time the MP has asked about the file. In March 1997 he wrote to the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, with questions about its status and location. Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records replied, 21 March 1997, advising that members of the public had viewed the record at Kew during 1996, but after the file was referred to the PRO's Reprographic section in April 1996 it could not be located. Five days later, 26 March, a further letter advised the MP it had been discovered and was now available.

5. In April Section 40 (see para 3) contacted CS(RM) by

telephone and subsequently followed up with a letter seeking very similar information as the MP. Regrettably, we advised that the file had been out to the MOD until 9 November 1996. Further investigation revealed this information to be incorrect due to an unfortunate clerical error. The date quoted should have been 9 November 1995.

6. Sec(AS) and the PRO have provided inputs to the background note and the attached draft reply to Mr Jones which seeks to set the record straight.

Section 40
Hd CS(RM)
MTD8/1 Section 40

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

Just before the Summer recess you tabled a Parliamentary Question seeking information about AIR 2/16918. AIR 2/16918 is a file, not a document, with the Public Record Office (PRO) and comprises unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry during the period 1961-63. I undertook to write to you [Hansard].

I understand some confusion has arisen over the whereabouts of this file as a result of its non-availability to readers at the PRO for most of 1996 and the early part of 1997. I am grateful for the opportunity to clarify matters.

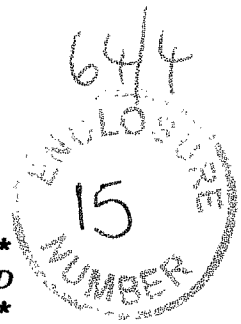
Earlier this year you were advised, by Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, that AIR 2/16918 had regrettably been misplaced by staff at Kew. In her letter Mrs Tyacke explained AIR 2/16918 was seen by members of the public during 1996 and was passed to the PRO's Reprographic section in April that year. Subsequently you were advised by one of her officials that it had since been located. I regret that shortly thereafter one of my officials provided conflicting advice to a member of the public. This was due to a clerical error and I regret any inconvenience it has caused. The last occasion file AIR 2/16918 was in MOD custody was during the period 23 October-9 November 1995 when it was with my Records Branch. I understand that the incorrect information given to a member of the public quoted 9 November 1996 as the return

date to the PRO. I can confirm, however, that the file was returned to Kew with others on 9 November 1995.

There is no record to say why the file was requisitioned. At the time a number of unreleased "ufo" files were also on loan from the PRO to facilitate the reinstatement of pages previously extracted before their original release. This followed a change in practice in October 1995 when we my Department concluded that the deletion of internal distribution lists from documents held on the files released to the PRO was inconsistent with our commitment to greater openness.

When it is necessary to extract sensitive data from files the files are clearly marked to that effect. Responsibility for physically reinstating extracted pages from the open files, such as AIR 2/16918, rests with the PRO.

I hope this explains the position.



****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN 1997	:	**12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0862i and PQ 0861i
PQ TYPE	:	Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

QUESTION

PQ 0862i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel, and, if not, why not. [31st July]

PQ 0861i: The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government how the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest. [31st July]

ANSWER

The ~~report~~ memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by ~~the~~ staff in my Department responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgement was that it contained nothing of defence significance no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective, some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Copied to APS/US of S

DRAFTED BY : Section 40 : TEL: Section 40

AUTHORISED BY : Section 40 : TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : Grade 7

AUTHORISED BY : Mr M J D Fuller: TEL: Section 40
GRADE/RANK : SCS

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself
answer and background note are in acco
Government's policy on answering PQs,
instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}),
Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

UNCLASSIFIE
RESTRICTED - ST

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "ufologists'" causes.

2. The MOD position on "UFO" sightings is that we examine any reports received solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "unidentified flying object" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident.

3. The alleged incidents referred to in the 1981 memorandum occurred between 27-29 December 1980 when unusual lights were seen by USAF personnel, including the Deputy Base Commander, outside RAF Woodbridge. A report of the sighting written some two weeks after the events (copy attached) was forwarded to the MOD by the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters. The report was examined by the Department at the time and no evidence of any matter of defence significance was found. This is of course the Department's only interest in such sightings.

4. This incident is regularly quoted by the media and 'ufologists' as evidence of "UFOs" penetrating the UK Air Defence Region. However, all available evidence was examined at the time and nothing of defence concern was judged to have occurred in the location on the nights in question. No additional information has come to light over the last 16½ years which calls the original judgement into question.

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED - STAFF

5. It was then, and continues to be the case that witnesses are not routinely contacted following receipt of a "UFO" report. It would only have been necessary to contact Lt Col Halt (or any other witness) had there been any indication that the sighting was of defence relevance and further information was required.

6. The PQs may have been prompted by the publication of two books, one on "UFOs" and the other on "Alien Abductions" by a former member of Sec(AS), Mr Nicholas Pope. The incident is discussed in Mr Pope's first book. He states that the radiation readings taken by USAF personnel at the site were unusually high. There is, however, no evidence that any analysis of the radiation readings reported at the site was undertaken at the time. It can only be assumed now that in view of the assessment made at the time by the relevant air defence experts that the UK air defence region had not been compromised, no analysis of the reported readings was judged necessary. During his time in Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted], approached the Defence Radiological Protection Service in 1994 for their views. Their advice was that the readings were higher than normal but that there could be a number of explanations for this. Section 40 [redacted] enquiry was made by telephone and is documented only by a handwritten file note.

Section 40 [redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

13 Jan 81

FROM: CD

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

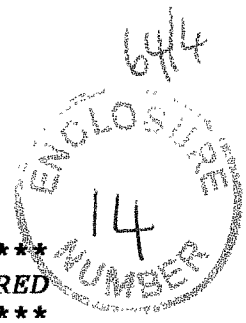
TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander



****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN 1997	:	**12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0863i
PQ TYPE	:	Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the military involvement in the search for the unidentified object that witnesses believe exploded in mid air, before crashing into the sea off the Isle of Lewis on 26th October 1996, and what liaison took place with the US authorities with regard to this incident. [31st July]

ANSWER

Following media reports of an explosion, initially attributed to a mid-air collision north of the Butt of Lewis, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets but was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue. In common with the operators of UK military assets, HQ 3rd Air Force were approached at the time. They confirmed that there had been no US military activity in the area.

Copied to APS/US of S

DRAFTED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]

AUTHORISED BY : [redacted] TEL: [redacted]
GRADE/RANK : Grade 7

AUTHORISED BY : M J D Fuller [redacted] TEL: [redacted]
GRADE/RANK : SCS

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

BACKGROUND NOTE:

1. Lord Hill-Norton has a long-standing interest in "UFOs", was a member of the (now defunct) House of Lords All-Party "UFO" Study Group, and has written forewords for two books on the subject. He has previously written to Ministers supporting individual "Ufologists" causes.

2. This question has probably been prompted by last year's media reports of an explosion in the air, initially attributed to a mid-air collision, north of the Butt of Lewis on the evening in question (copy attached). As a result, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue (SAR) assets but the search was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft (military or civilian) had been reported overdue. Other than the assets involved in the SAR operation, there was no other military activity off the Western Isles on the evening of 26 October. Media reports subsequently focused on the possibility that the incident was caused by space debris, although the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at RAF Fylingdales, which tracks all satellites in orbit within the UK's area of responsibility, has no evidence to support this theory.

3. HQ 3rd Air Force was approached at the time, as were operators of UK military assets. They confirmed that there had been no US military activity in the area.

4. This incident has attracted a certain amount of interest from the "UFO" fraternity, and in view of his interests in this area it is possible that Lord Hill-Norton is trying to create a link between the incident and "UFOs".

The Herald
Glasgow
11 November 1996

Professor believes the military might be responsible for incident over the Hebrides

US investigates air explosion

MERICAN military scientists e investigating a mysterious id-air explosion two weeks o off the Outer Hebrides. A British scientist contacted the Americans believes the ast could have been caused the military.

The development comes at a me when former White House lviser Pierre Salinger is aiming that a stray American issile shot down the TWA mbo jet over New York in ıly, killing all 230 people on oard.

Now US military scientists from Sandia National Laboratories — which operates spy satellites — in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are hoping to pinpoint the object which caused the mid-air explosion off the north of Lewis.

Why the Americans have become involved is as much a mystery as the cause of the explosion, but it gives new force to those who suspect the military were the cause of the explosion over Ness.

It is known that Britain's missile tracking station at Fylingdales and its American counterpart in Virginia both investigated the incident.

The military has denied it was involved in causing the explosion but a Nato exercise, involving more than 30 ships and 80 aircraft, started in the area two days later. It finished on Friday and involved American warships, including the frigate Aubrey Fitch.

This week Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said his Ministry was "unaware" of any military activity in the area of the blast, but Western Isles MP Calum Macdonald described the reply as "not a definitive answer" and said he would continue to push to find out if non-British military could have been responsible.

The SNP claims it has information that a naval frigate was seen off the west coast of Lewis uplifting wreckage from the area, as if she was involved in some covert recovery operation.

There is an unconfirmed report of a military Lynx helicopter being secretly involved in the initial two-day £200,000 search after the explosion. The Defence Ministry says it has no record of the aircraft being involved.

Now the US military scientists have contacted the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland, the country's leading astronomical research centre for fireballs and similar objects, for information on the explosion.

They particularly want to pinpoint the exact time of the explosion to check pictures of spy satellites trained on the earth to look for nuclear and other missile explosions.

The technology involves differentiating between natural phenomena such as meteorites and man-made explosions like missiles.

Professor Mark Bailey, the observatory director, admitted he was puzzled.

"I am torn between this being caused by the military, such as target practice, and a natural phenomenon such as a fireball," he said.

"I am hoping to be told the results of the American investigation. But it all hinges on getting an exact time of the explosion to see if a satellite was trained on that particular area at that particular time. This is a very strange incident indeed."

Meanwhile, SNP parliamentary leader Margaret Ewing is being asked to raise in the Commons the possibility of military involvement being behind the explosion.

The party's Western Isles parliamentary candidate, Dr Anne Lorne Gillies, has forwarded a full report to SNP defence spokesman Colin Campbell.

UFO expert Nick Pope is also investigating — he believes the explosion could have been extra terrestrial.

35

644

CLOSURE 13 NUMBER

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
08/08/97	SEC(AS)1A (2)	PQ - HILL-NORTON	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 08/08/97 at 15:25 Delivered: 08/08/97 at 15:25
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 918
From: SEC(AS)1A (2) Auth by:
Subject: PQ - HILL-NORTON

Text: psa.

Priority: Normal
Reply Request [ ]

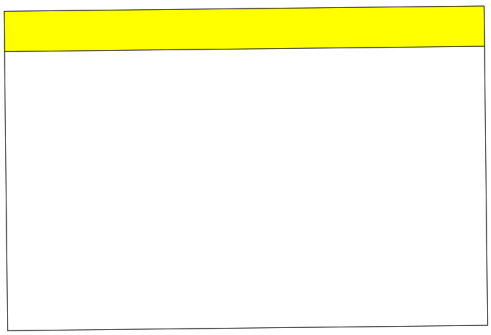
SEE PAGE
View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [2]
Codes [ ]

Section 40

1. As discussed, an input to the draft background note to the Hill-Norton PQ is attached. It is based on the reply we gave to a PQ asked shortly after the incident by Calum MacDonald MP. In researching the answer to the MacDonald PQ we checked with Air Force Ops, HQ STC (Exercises), Sec(NS), HQ Land, MOD(PE) and HQ 3 AF and they all advised that there was no military activity in the area at the time.

Section 40



BACKGROUND NOTE: PQ

This question has probably been prompted by last year's media reports of an explosion in the air, initially attributed to a mid-air collision, north of the Butt of Lewis on the evening in question. As a result, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue (SAR) assets but the search was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue. Other than the assets involved in the SAR operation, there was no other military activity off the Western Isles on the evening of 26 October. Media reports subsequently focused on the possibility that the incident was caused by space debris, although the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at RAF Fylingdales, which tracks all satellites in orbit within the UK's area of responsibility, has no evidence to support this theory.

As to liaison with the US authorities with regard to this incident, HQ 3rd Air Force were approached at the time in common with the operators of UK military assets and they confirmed that there had been no US military activity in the area.

The Herald
Glasgow
11 November 1996

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It is known that Britain's missile tracking station at Fylingdales and its American counterpart in Virginia both investigated the incident.

The military has denied it was involved in causing the explosion but a Nato exercise, involving more than 30 ships and 80 aircraft, started in the area two days later. It finished on Friday and involved American warships, including the frigate Aubrey Fitch.

This week Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said his Ministry was "unaware" of any military activity in the area of the blast, but Western Isles MP Calum Macdonald described the reply as "not a definitive answer" and said he would continue to push to find out if non-British military could have been responsible.

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Meanwhile, SNP parliamentary leader Margaret Ewing is being asked to raise in the Commons the possibility of military involvement being behind the explosion.

The party's Western Isles parliamentary candidate, Dr Anne Lorne Gillies, has forwarded a full report to SNP defence spokesman Colin Campbell.

UFO expert Nick Pope is also investigating — he believes the explosion could have been extra terrestrial.

35

Section 40

ENCLOSURE 3 NUMBER

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff)1a
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Rm 7249, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

Section 40

Darlington,
Co. Durham
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)57/3

Date
18 November 1996

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter to the my colleague Section 40, about the reported incident in the vicinity of the Western Isles on 26 October. As the Section within Secretariat(Air Staff) that deals with Flight Safety and Search and Rescue (SAR) issues, your letter has been passed to this office and I have been asked to reply.

As you are aware, following reports to the authorities of an alleged explosion in the air, an extensive search of the area was carried out by the RAF and the Coastguard SAR. This search was later called off after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue.

With regards to your request for information, Sec(AS)'s involvement in this incident only concerned the deployment during the search phase of military SAR assets and we have no evidence to support any of the media theories about the cause of the incident.

I hope that this outlines the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 12

644

DRAFT

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0863i
PQ TYPE	:	Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

QUESTION

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ANSWER

Following media reports of an explosion, initially attributed to a mid-air collision north of the Butt of Lewis, an extensive search of the area was carried out by RAF and Coastguard Search and Rescue assets but was later abandoned after it became clear that no aircraft had been reported overdue. In common with the operators of UK military assets, HQ 3rd Air Force were approached at the time. They confirmed that there had been no US military activity in the area.

Section 40 [redacted]

Are you content with this response? Can you confirm the words in square brackets or is it better to leave it out?

Mil SAR assets tasked by Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre. ARCC checks with Distress and Diversion Cell at Prestwick or West Drayton for overdue mil and civ a/c.

Section 40 [redacted] 11/8.

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself
background note are in accordance with
on answering PQs, Departmental instruct
Confirmed}), and the Open Government Cc

BACKGROUND NOTE:

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was a member of the (now defunct) House
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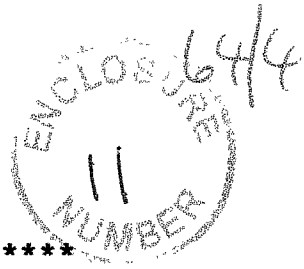


64/4

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 1997

PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0861i
PQ TYPE : Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED? : No

MINISTER REPLYING : MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs (DCI To Be Confirmed).**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government how the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendelsham Forest. [31st July]

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs are set out in (DCI To Be Confirmed) and can be

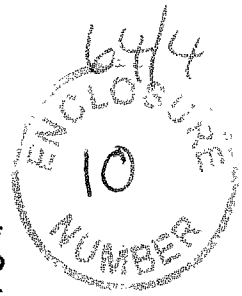
viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:



****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 1997

PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0862i
PQ TYPE : Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED? : No

MINISTER REPLYING : MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC(AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :

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QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel, and, if not, why not. [31st July]

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answering PQs are set out in (DCI To Be Confirmed) and can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:

644

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 9

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0863i
PQ TYPE	:	Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT
LEAD BRANCH:	:	SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	

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QUESTION

The Lord Hill-Norton - To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the military involvement in the search for the unidentified object that witnesses believe exploded in mid air, before crashing into the sea off the Isle of Lewis on 26th October 1996, and what liaison took place with the US authorities with regard to this incident. [31st July]

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DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the ~~following~~ answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE:

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 8

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER—*continued*

The Lord HolmPatrick—To ask Her Majesty's Government in what ways they contribute to, and what progress is being made in, research into meningitis, particularly the meningicoccal virus, in view of the number of fatalities it causes amongst the young. [*30th July*]

The Lord HolmPatrick—To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures the NHS has in place to ensure the effective and speedy diagnosis of meningitis, particularly in young children. [*30th July*]

The Lord Rea—To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to lay before the House the 1996 Report entitled The Independent Monitor (Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993) by Dame Elizabeth Anson. [*30th July*]

The Lord Graham of Edmonton—To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to announce the Preferred Bidder for the Private Finance Initiative contract for the British Embassy in Berlin. [*30th July*]

The Lord Strabolgi—To ask Her Majesty's Government to detail the forthcoming business in the Council of the European Union for August, and to list major EU events for the next six months. [*30th July*]

The Lord Dean of Beswick—To ask Her Majesty's Government who is on the United Kingdom delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly. [*30th July*]

The Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe—To ask the Chairman of Committees whether the contract for the proposed refurbishment of the Lord Chancellor's residence has been let; when the work is expected to start; and what is the anticipated date of completion. [*30th July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients suffering from cancer are on NHS waiting lists. [*31st July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of NHS treatment for a patient suffering from cancer. [*31st July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost of treating an NHS patient on the waiting list. [*31st July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government how many courses of adult dental treatment have been performed by the NHS since 1970. [*31st July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the percentage real terms and cash increase for 1996–97, 1997–98 and 1998–99 in NHS funding for each health authority. [*31st July*]

†The Baroness Cumberlege—To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the number of nurses entering train

Telefax
To: Section 40
Fax:
From: Section 40 Section 40
Date: Pages: 1/1

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[*31st July*]

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†The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government how the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13th January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendlesham Forest. [*31st July*] 1

†The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and, if not, why not. [*31st July*] 2

†The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the military involvement in the search for the unidentified object that witnesses believe exploded in mid air, before crashing into the sea off the Isle of Lewis on 26th October 1996, and what liaison took place with the US authorities with regard to this incident. [*31st July*] 3

†The Lord Hill-Norton—To ask Her Majesty's Government which Ministers are currently occupying houses, flats or apartments owned by or leased to the Government, and what notional rent has been assessed for each of these. [*31st July*]

13th AUG → PE Unit

644

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
11/08/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	IEUAN WYN JONES - FOLLOW UP LETTER	[ ]

Sent: 11/08/97 at 16:02
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1287
Subject: IEUAN WYN JONES - FOLLOW UP LETTER

Text: Section 40
Attached added personality para and a few suggested tweaks all in bold type.
Happy of course to discuss with you should you want to give me a call.
Regards Section 40

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

DRAFT

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

August 1997

Parliamentary Questions

Copy to:
Sec(AS)
PRO/GSD

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

1. The question concerned the reasons a particular record had been borrowed from the Public Record Office by the MOD, who consulted the file whilst on loan and the period of loan. The file - AIR 2/16918 - was released into the public domain in 1994 and consists of unidentified flying object reports from members of the public to the then Air Ministry.

2. For most of 1996 and the early part of 1997 this file was not available to Readers at the Public Record Office. It has since been the subject of correspondence from various members of the public who believe its non-availability at Kew is part of some sinister MOD plot. **There is also some confusion in the minds of the public about AIR 2/16918 which is a file and not a document.**

3. **Three persistent "UFO" correspondents have individually written to MOD officials (Sec(AS)2 and CS(RM) about this file and there is every indication that they go to great lengths to compare responses to their questions seeking "evidence" to support their claims of a cover-up. The three individuals; Section 40 (Mr Jones' constituent), Section 40 and Section 40 are voluminous correspondents, writing to the Department on numerous occasions over the last few years. They refuse to accept that the Department has a limited interest in the subject of "UFOs" and their aim, especially in the case of Section 40, is to stimulate Parliamentary interest in the subject and, hopefully, Government sponsored research into "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms. Section 40 Section 40 is a Section 40 and has offered his services in this respect.**

4. This is not the first time **the MP** has **asked** about **the** file. In March 1997 he wrote to the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, with questions about its status and location. Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records replied, 21 March

1997, advising that members of the public had viewed the record at Kew during 1996, but after **the file was** referred to the PRO's Reprographic section in April 1996 it could not be located. Five days later, 26 March, a further letter advised the MP it had been discovered and was now available.

5. In April Section 40 [redacted] (see **para 3**) contacted CS(RM) by telephone and subsequently followed up with a letter seeking very similar information as the MP. Regrettably, we advised that the file had been out to the MOD until 9 November 1996. Further investigation revealed this information to be incorrect due to an unfortunate clerical error. The date quoted should have been 9 November 1995.

6. Sec(AS) and the PRO have provided inputs to the background note and the attached draft reply to Mr Jones **which seeks to set the record straight.**

Section 40 [redacted]
Hd CS(RM)
MTD8/1 Section 40 MB

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

Just before the Summer recess you tabled a Parliamentary Question seeking information about **AIR 2/16918. AIR 2/16918 is a file, not a document,** with the Public Record Office **(PRO) and comprises** unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry during the period 1961-63. I undertook to write to you [Hansard].

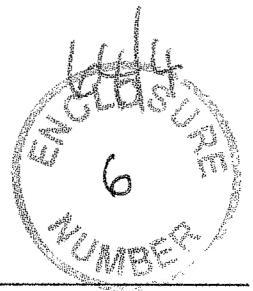
I understand **some** confusion has arisen over the whereabouts of this file as a result of its non-availability to readers at the PRO for most of 1996 and the early part of 1997. I am grateful for the opportunity to clarify matters.

Earlier this year you were advised, by Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, that AIR 2/16918 had regrettably been misplaced by staff at Kew. In her letter Mrs Tyacke explained AIR 2/16918 was seen by members of the public during 1996 and was passed to the PRO's Reprographic section in April **that year.** Subsequently you were advised by one of her officials that it had since been located. **I regret that shortly thereafter one of my officials provided conflicting advice to a member of the public. This was due to a clerical error and I regret any inconvenience it has caused. The last occasion file AIR 2/16918 was in MOD custody was**

during the period 23 October-9 November 1995 when it was with my Records Branch. I understand that the incorrect information given to a member of the public quoted 9 November 1996 as the return date to the PRO. I can confirm, however, that the file was returned to Kew with other on 9 November 1995.

There is no record to say why the file was requisitioned. At the time a number of unreleased "ufo" files were also on loan from the PRO to facilitate the reinstatement of pages previously extracted before their original release. This followed a change in practice in October 1995 when my Department concluded that the deletion of internal distribution lists from documents held on the files released to the PRO was inconsistent with our commitment to greater openness. Subsequent to my Department checking these files to ascertain what had been deleted, responsibility for physically reinstating extracted pages from the open files, such as AIR 2/16918 rested with the PRO.

I hope this explains the position.



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
07/08/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 07/08/97 at 13:08 Delivered: 07/08/97 at 13:08
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 411
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP - PQ 0826i

Text: Section 40 Find attached draft background note and reply to Mr Jones. The PRO official with responsibility for MOD is content with the references to his Agency.
Your comments and input now sought.
Section 40

Priority: Normal SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

DRAFT

Loose Minute

CS(RM)/4/6/37

August 1997

Parliamentary Questions

Copy to:
Sec(AS)
PRO/GSD

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

1. The question concerned the reasons a particular record had been borrowed from the Public Record Office by the MOD, who consulted the file whilst on loan and the period of loan. The file - **AIR 2/ 16918** - was released into the public domain in 1994 and consists of unidentified flying object reports from members of the public to the then Air Ministry.

2. For most of 1996 and the early part of 1997 this file was not available to Readers at the Public Record Office. It has since been the subject of correspondence from various members of the public who believe its non-availability at Kew is part of some sinister MOD plot. There is also some confusion in the minds of the public about AIR 2/16918 which is file and not a document.

3. **[Sec(AS)** Section 40 [redacted] **personality input etc!!]**

4. This is not the first time Mr Jones has sought information about this file. In March 1997 he wrote to the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, with questions about its status and location. Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records replied, 21 March 1997, advising that members of the public had viewed the record at Kew during 1996, but after being referred to the PRO's Reprographic section in April 1996 it could not be located. Five days later, 26 March, a further letter advised the MP it had been discovered and was now available.

5. In April Section 40 [redacted] (see above) contacted CS(RM) by telephone and subsequently followed up with a letter seeking very similar information as the MP. Regrettably, we advised that the file had been out to the MOD until 9 November 1996. Further investigation revealed this information to be incorrect due to an unfortunate clerical error. The date quoted should have been 9 November 1995.

6. Sec(AS) and the PRO have provided inputs to the background note and the attached draft reply to Mr Jones.

Section 40

Hd CS(RM)

MTD8/1 Section 40

PQ 0826i - FOLLOW UP LETTER TO MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP

Just before the Summer recess you tabled a Parliamentary Question seeking information about a ~~file~~ with the Public Record Office ~~reference~~ AIR 2/16918, ~~consisting of~~ unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry during the period 1961-63. I undertook to write to you [Hansard].

I understand ~~a degree of~~ confusion has arisen over the whereabouts of this file as a result of its non-availability to readers at the PRO for most of 1996 and the early part of 1997. I am grateful for the opportunity to clarify matters.

Earlier this year you were advised, by Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, that AIR 2/16918 had regrettably been misplaced by staff at Kew. In her letter Mrs Tyacke explained AIR 2/16918 was seen by members of the public during 1996 and was passed to the PRO's Reprographic section in April 1996. Subsequently you were advised by one of her officials that it had since been located.

That advice was found to be in conflict with information supplied soon after by one of my officials to a member of the public.

I can confirm that this file has been in MOD custody. The last occasion was during the period 23 October - 9 November 1995 when it was with my records branch.

The earlier incorrect advice given to a member of the public, quoting 9 November 1996 as the return date to the PRO, was the result of a clerical error. The file was returned to Kew with others on 9 November 1995.

I am sorry to say we have no record why this file was requisitioned. But it was at the time a number of unreleased "ufo" files were also on loan from the PRO to permit the reinstatement of pages previously indicated as extracted from these files. This followed a change in practice when we concluded the deletion of internal distribution lists from released "ufo" files was inconsistent with our commitment to greater openness. The practice ceased October 1995.

Responsibility for physically reinstating extracted pages from open files, such as AIR 2/16918, would rest with the PRO.

I hope this explains the position.

My suggested personality bit — need we say more?

3. This PQ has arisen as a result of the liaison between three persistent "UFO" correspondents. The three individuals; Section 40 Section 40 (Mr Wyn Jones' constituent), Section 40 and Section 40 are well known to Sec(AS) and have each written to the Department on numerous occasions over the last few years. They flatly refuse to accept that the Department has a limited interest in the subject of "UFOs" and it is their aim, especially in case of Section 40, to encourage Parliamentary interest in the subject of "UFOs" and extraterrestrial lifeforms, and, especially, Government sponsored research into [redacted] Section 40 is a Section 40 and has offered his services in this respect.

These persistent 'UFO' correspondents have individually written to MoD Ministers (several) and Sec(AS) about this file and there is every indication that they go to great lengths to compare responses to their questions seeking "evidence" to support their claims of a cover-up

MOD Form 174D

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

REGISTERED FILE No. D/SEC(AS) 64/4

Enclosure Jacket No. 4

DATE OPENED 5.8.97

DIVISION/DIRECTORATE/BRANCH:

SEC(AS)2A

SUBJECT:

PE: US 2868/97

MP: MRS BETTY WILLIAMS

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

NOTES

1. A Temporary Jacket will only be used when the Registered File is not available.
2. The contents of a Temporary Jacket must be incorporated in the Registered File at the earliest opportunity, and this incorporation recorded on a transit slip or file record sheet.
3. The movements of Temporary Jackets are recorded by the Registry. Transit is to be recorded on transit slips as for Registered Files.

DOWNGRADING

(to be completed when the jacket is incorporated in the Registered File)

This jacket may be downgraded to:— ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED on ..... (insert date)

UNCLASSIFIED

Certifying Officer .....

Date ..... Appointment and Branch .....

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone 0171-21.....(Direct Dialling)
0171-21 89000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE

D/US of S/JS 2868/97/M

11 August 1997

Dear Betty,

Thank you for your letter of 19 July (reference: C3) to George Robertson enclosing a number of letters from your constituents about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

By way of background I should explain that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Your constituents have covered a wide range of questions in their letters and I hope you will find the following information helpful in responding to them. The topics are not new to us and are regularly raised in correspondence from a small but widespread group of people interested in the 'UFO/flying saucer' phenomenon.

Betty Williams MP

MINIS... ...FENCE
SEC (...) 2
13 AUG 1997
FILE 64 4

Recycled Paper

As is the case with other Government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office and their address is: Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of the files are as follows:

AIR 16/1199	AIR 2/16918
AIR 20/7390	AIR 2/17318
AIR 20/9320	AIR 2/17526
AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subjec of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

My Department was asked some weeks ago about an alleged incident at the home of the Rt Hon Michael Howard QC, the forme Home Secretary, on 8 March this year. I can say that MOD Air Defence staff confirmed there was no evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region, and the H Office confirmed that no security incident occurred at the fo Home Secretary's home on that date as alleged in the newspape article enclosed with Section 40 's letter.

Turning now to the other points raised in the correspor I can confirm that as a matter of routine the MOD was notif the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilo

report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was then discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

The Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, have been recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controllers where a loss of separation between aircraft has occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published, and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications at the following address: Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

There was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 and no further investigation into the matter was, therefore, necessary. Although a number of allegations have been made about these events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

The views expressed by the MOD official, Mr Pope, in his books *"Open Skies, Closed Minds"* and *"The Uninvited"* are his personal opinions. As such, they do not represent, nor do they reflect, the views of the Ministry of Defence.

I hope this explains the position.

Section 40 [redacted]

JOHN SPELLAR MP

Recycled Paper

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/64/4

5 Aug 97

PE Unit Section 40 [redacted] 9/8
(thro [redacted])

LETTER FROM BETTY WILLIAMS MP - US 2868/97

1. I attach a draft reply for USofS to send to Betty Williams MP in response to six letters from her constituents about the so-called "UFO" phenomenon. None of the questions are new and there is growing evidence of a campaign by "Ufologists" to lobby the Department, directly and through MPs, into a more active role in this area of interest.

2. As a newly elected MP, Mrs Williams is not familiar with the Department's limited interest in the subject, and we have therefore provided a full reply. One of her constituents (Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]) has previously written direct to Sec(AS)2a.

3. Three of the six letters (two from Section 40 [redacted] and one from Section 40 [redacted] Section 40 [redacted]) request documentation held by the Government on five alleged "UFO" incidents mentioned in an article in the June edition of "FOCUS Magazine", be released into the public domain. The magazine concerned is not the MOD in-house magazine "FOCUS" but one of many now published on the subject of "UFOs" and the paranormal. The draft reply therefore explains MOD policy concerning the "UFO" phenomena, and clarifies the rules governing the release of documentation held on official files. Ieuan Wyn Jones MP raised this issue in June 1997 (US 2106/97 copy attached). There has been no change in the facts of this case and we have therefore repeated this line in the response to Mrs Williams.

4. The letter from Section 40 [redacted] expresses concern that there has been no media coverage of a "UFO" incident which is alleged to have occurred on 8 March this year at the home of the former Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Michael Howard QC. MOD Air Defence staff have confirmed that there is no evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region on 8 March. The Home Office has confirmed that there was no security incident at the home of the former Home Secretary on this date.

5. In responding to the letter from Section 40 [redacted] who comments about the book by the former Sec(AS)2a staff member Nick Pope, "Open Skies, Closed Minds", we have sought to distance the Department from the views expressed by Mr Pope which are his personal opinions. Section 40 [redacted] also refers to an incident which is alleged to have occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest as does Section 40 [redacted], who enclosed a list of questions, very

similar to a number already received by the Department from other correspondents during the last year. Again, the standard lines have been used in the draft reply. The report of the incident provided by Section 40 was sent to the MOD on 15 Jul 81 under cover of a letter from RAF Bentwaters. It is a statement from the then Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, Lt Col Charles Halt, recording what USAF personnel and, in part, he himself claimed to have seen outside RAF Woodbridge over the nights of 27-29 Dec 80. The report was examined by the Department at the time. Nothing of defence significance was found which is, of course, the Department's only interest in such reports. Nevertheless, the incident continues to interest "UFO" enthusiasts and has been the subject of books magazine articles and television programmes. We continue to receive a steady stream of correspondence on the subject. Section 40 has also asked about Airmiss incidents involving civil airliners. The detail used in the reply has been provided by the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions.

6. I am satisfied that the draft is in accordance with the Government's policy on answering Parliamentary Enquiries and the Open Government Code (DCI Gen 48/97).

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a1
MB8245 Section 40
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

D/US/2868/97 August 1997

Thank you for your letter to George Robertson (ref: C3) of 19 July enclosing a number of letters from your constituents about "unidentified flying objects". I am replying in view of my responsibility for this matter.

By way of background I should explain that my Department has no expertise or role with respect to "UFO/flying saucer" matters or the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain open-minded. My Department examines any reports of 'UFO sightings' sent to us solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there are defence implications, and to date no 'UFO sighting' reported to us has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

Your constituents have covered a wide range of questions in their letters and I hope you will find the following information helpful in responding to them. The topics are not new to us and

are regularly raised in correspondence from a small but widespread group of people interested in the 'UFO/flying saucer' phenomenon.

As is the case with other Government departments, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. Those files selected for preservation are then transferred to the Public Record Office for release into the public domain.

It was generally the case that before 1967 all "UFO" files were destroyed after five years as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However, since 1967 there has been an increase in public interest in this subject and "UFO" report files are now routinely preserved. A few files from the 1950s and early 1960s did, however, survive and are available for examination by members of the public. They may be viewed at the Public Record Office and their address is: Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. The references of the files are as follows:

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AIR 20/9321	AIR 2/17527
AIR 20/9322	AIR 2/17982
AIR 20/9994	AIR 2/17983
PREM 11/855	

All surviving paperwork from over 30 years ago on the subject of "UFOs" previously held by the MOD has now been transferred to the Public Record Office.

My Department was asked some weeks ago about an alleged incident at the home of the Rt Hon Michael Howard QC, the former Home Secretary, on 8 March this year. I can say that MOD Air Defence staff confirmed there was no evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK Air Defence Region, and the Home Office confirmed that no security incident occurred at the former Home Secretary's home on that date as alleged in the newspaper article enclosed with Section 40 's letter.

Turning now to the other points raised in the correspondence. I can confirm that as a matter of routine the MOD was notified by the Civil Aviation Authority about the British Airways pilots' report of 6 January 1995. The information was provided shortly after the incident occurred and was then discussed with Departmental air defence experts. There was no evidence to suggest anything of defence significance, and my Department's interest in the incident ceased thereafter.

The Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, have been recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be

filed by pilots and/or air traffic controllers where a loss of separation between aircraft has occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published, and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications at the following address: Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN.

There was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 and no further investigation into the matter was, therefore, necessary. Although a number of allegations have been made about these events, nothing has emerged over the last 16½ years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

The views expressed by the MOD official, Mr Pope, in his books *"Open Skies, Closed Minds"* and *"The Uninvited"* are his personal opinions. As such, they do not represent, nor do they reflect, the views of the Ministry of Defence.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR

Betty Williams MP

Section 40 is the only one to have wrote to us before. copy of correspondence attached.

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

ISSUES RAISED IN SIX LETTERS ENCLOSED

- **FOCUS ARTICLE WHICH COVERED THE F**

  Called for documents on the follo
  released into the public domain:

  -- RAF Neatishead incident of Oct/Nov 80
  -- Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest
  -- Bentwaters/Lakenheath Aug 56
  -- Aldershot Aug 83
  -- Manchester Jan 95 civil incident

FOI not included no one specifically mentions it.

→ 64/4

  HOW DEALT WITH BEFORE

  -- Subject of previous PE
  -- Set out PRA covers release of docs less than 30 years
  -- All paperwork over 30 years already released pub dom
  -- Statement on Manchester

  -- 3 letters in this vein one of which has additional questions:

not sufficiently relevant

     --- about 30/31 Mar 93 wave (**did a PQ on this one**)
     --- Michael Howard incident (**use Section 40 reply**)

- **ALL ABOUT MICHAEL HOWARD UFO INCIDENT**

  -- Section 40 Letter to respond

- **LIST OF QUESTIONS WANT TABLED TO PARLIAMENT**

  -- The standard Section 40 list
  -- Dealt with in previous PE Section 40
  -- Home Dept query for them to answer???
  -- Need to check with DoT no other Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft. **(IN HAND)**

No further issues since June 1998.

- **NICK POPE AND RENDLESHAM FOREST** (1 letter)

  -- Statement about NP is own views etc.
  -- Standard statement of Rendlesham

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

58

Section 40

Bethesda,
Gwynedd.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
18 February 1997

Dear Section 40,

1. Thank you for your letter dated 20 January 1997 addressed to Section 40. I have been asked to reply.

2. You asked for the MOD's viewpoint on "UFOs". The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of "unidentified flying objects" it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft.

3. Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of the reports, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles or natural phenomena.

4. With regard to the alleged sighting of lights around the Control Tower at RAF Valley in September 1995, we contacted RAF Valley in August 1996, following a similar enquiry from a member of the public, and they confirmed that there were no incidents of unidentified craft around the control tower at RAF Valley within the memory of staff or recorded in the Air Traffic Log Books spanning the last five years. Such an incident would have been notified to the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer had it occurred. You added that military aircraft were scrambled to intercept these lights. Military aircraft from a variety of RAF establishments regularly undertake low flying training sorties over the North Wales area, and it is likely that a routine military low flying training sortie could account for the observation of the two aircraft in the area.

5. I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 Bethesda,
Gwynedd. Section 40 UK. Section 40 . 20 January 1997.

Dear Section 40 ,

I am currently researching Unidentified Flying Objects for a project for ASSAP (the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena), and I would be most grateful if you would give me information detailing the MODs viewpoint on UFOs.

I am also researching an alleged sighting of lights around the Control Tower at RAF Valley, Anglesey in September 1995, where two aircraft including a Tornado were scrambled to intercept these lights. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know where I can gather further information about this incident.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
22 JAN 1997
FILE

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 Section 40
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) 0171 218 Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2

Department of Transport, Environment and The Regions

Civil Aviation Division

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Date
31 July 1997

Attn: Section 40 Section 40 (Section 40 replaced)

== by fax ==

confirmed no Airprox since June 1996 citing "unidentified" craft.

Dear Section 40 Section 40 31/7

PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY US 2868/97 - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. You may recall back in June we corresponded in connection with a Parliamentary Enquiry tabled by Michael Mates (my ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/4 of 18 June 97 refers). The point which concerned CAD was details of the number of Airmiss incidents over the last five years involving "unidentified" craft. You were able to confirm that there had been three such cases recorded.

2. We have received another Parliamentary Enquiry (on this occasion from Betty Williams MP) forwarding a letter from a constituent which asks the same set of questions posed in the earlier PE and I would like to include the following paragraph in the reply:

> "With regard to your question about the number of Airmiss incidents involving "unidentified" craft and civil airliners, the Department of Environment, Transport and The Regions has advised that three such incidents were recorded in the last five years; these took place in January 1994, January 1995 and June 1996. Airmiss reports are given the name AIRPROX and must be filed by pilots and/or air traffic controller where a loss of separation between aircraft have occurred. AIRPROX incidents are considered by the Joint Airmiss Working Group which consist of representatives from both civil and military aviation. The findings of the working group are published and the reports can be obtained from Civil Aviation Authority Printing and Publications, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BN."

3. I should be grateful if you could confirm with NATS that there have been no further AIRPROX reports filed involving "unidentified" craft since June 1996.

4. To meet the PE Unit's deadline I should be most grateful if I may have the information before COP Mon 4 August. Happy to discuss further if required, and thanks for your assistance once again.

Yours ever,

Section 40

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

F Sigs 927
(Rev 2/95)

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Serial Number:	Transmission: Date: 31 JUL Time:

Document Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/4
Total number of pages including this one: 2

From:	Fax Number:
SEC(AS) Room 8245 MOD MAIN BUILDING	0171-218-Section 40
	Tel Number: 0171-218-Section 40

To:	Fax Number:
Section 40	Section 40
CIVIL AVIATION DIVISION DTER	Section 40

Authorised by:		
Rank	Name	Appointment
EO	Section 40	SEC(AS)2A1
Signature:	Section 40	

Transmitted by:		
Rank	Name	Tel Number
AO	Section 40	
Signature:	Section 40	

Subject: PE 2868/97 - AIRMISSES INVOLVING "UNIDENTIFIED" CRAFT.

Please see attached.

Classification:

Caveat:

Covering:

Secretariat(Air Staff) Fax:Section 40

** Transmit Conf.Report **

31 Jul '97 14:52

Secretariat(Air Staff)---> 01	
No.	5336
Mode	NORMAL
Time	1'06"
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PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

THE GUIDANCE IS NEW : YOU MUST READ IT

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
25 JUL 1997
FILE

TO: Sec(AS)2a PE REF NUMBER: US 2868 /97

MINISTER REPLYING: US of S DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 5 / 8 /97

DATE: 24 7 /97 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE. THEY MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.

ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

******** IMPORTANT UPDATES ********

1. Ministerial responsibilities changed.

2. Opening and Closing All Ministers prefer to start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... Toytown about..."
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start:
"Thank you for your letter of ... to George Robertson/John Reid/John Gilbert/John Spellar on behalf etc"
Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ... "
Do not end "I hope this is helpful" when the reply is obviously disappointing. Alternatives are:
"I hope this explains the position"
"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"
"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply."

3. Open Government A revised Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into effect in 1997. It is set out in DCI GEN 48/1997.

Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with this policy. If you are recommending to Ministers that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exception in the Code under which it is being withheld. eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

Deadlines To concur with the Citizens Charter, we have agreed to send a written reply within **15 working days** to this enquiry. It is very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline let me know at once, an interim reply might be needed.

Departmental action Action on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant private office.

Ministers place great importance on the content style and speed of the replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.

Layout Draft replies should be double spaced. **Always** include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft.

Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

Should this not be for your branch, please inform us **IMMEDIATELY** by telephone.

Wherever possible drafts should be sent on CHOTS E-Mail to: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES, NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES, **otherwise send drafts by fax to** Section 40
PLEASE USE ONLY ONE METHOD

US of S
Sec (AS) 2
UFOs

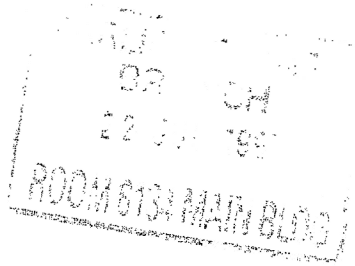
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

BETTY WILLIAMS MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Conwy

Office : Tel Section 40 [redacted]
Fax

Switchboard: Tel 0171 219 3000

Rt Hon. George Robertson MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB



My ref: C3

19 July 1997

Dear George

It has surprised me a little to find that UFOs have given rise to as many letters in my postbag as any other topics.

I have not passed any to you so far, but I hope you will forgive me if I now do so, for each request from a constituent of mine.

Copies of correspondence from the following are enclosed:-

1. Section 40 [redacted], 4 May (my ref C3/218)
2. Section 40 [redacted], 5 May (my ref C3/103)
3. Section 40 [redacted], 13 May (my ref C3/391)
4. Section 40 [redacted] 26 May (my ref C3/925)
5. Section 40 [redacted], 28 May (my ref C3/2106)
6. Section 40 [redacted] for Bangor UFO Group, 1 July (my ref C3/1956)

Although I hesitate to request a response to each point raised, I imagine you will have similar requests from others as publications appear to be a frequent source. So may I have replies which I may pass on to my constituents?

I would also appreciate separate more detailed information on the subject of UFOs and advice as to how you suggest I handle further requests. Clearly I could limit the extent to which I am prepared to raise issues with your department to those which arise in my constituency and would be happy to do so.

Yours

Section 40 [redacted]

4 JUL 1997

B.U.G. Bangor UFO Group

Section 40

Bangor, Gwynedd Section 40

Telephone Section 40

01 July, 1997

Betty Williams, MP
House of Commons
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Madam:

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article in Focus Magazine (June 1997,p 70-1) which referred to a number of UFO incidents.

I would be grateful to you if you would make a representation on my behalf with the appropriate government departments and ask that all documents relating to these incidents be released for public viewing.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Enclosure: Cuttings from Focus Magazine (June 1997).

Britain's Area 51 revealed... UFOs in military zones

RAF Neatishead, Norfolk
Late October/Early November 1980
A UFO was tracked by radar during night-flying exercises by RAF Phantoms. The uncorrelated target was stationary at 5,000 ft. It then made a series of incredible manoeuvres and jumped to an altitude in excess of 90,000 ft before disappearing. One of the Phantoms was tasked with intercepting the UFO and got to within half a mile of "a very bright light," but before the aircraft could get any closer, the object flew off.

RAF/USAF Woodbridge/ Bentwaters, Suffolk
27-29 December 1980
Strange lights in nearby Rendlesham Forest were investigated by USAF patrolmen. As they approached the source of these lights they noted it was a metallic triangular shape roughly three metres across the base and standing around two metres high.

Unable to determine whether it was hovering or on legs of some kind, their report describes a pulsing red light on the top of the craft with a bank of blue lights underneath. Before they could get any closer it began to move through the trees and vanished.

The following day three depressions were found in the ground where the sighting took place and subsequent independent analysis indicated 10 times the normal level of background radiation in the centre of where the object had been.

Later in the night a moving, pulsing sun-like light was seen to throw off glowing particles before breaking into pieces that shot skywards and remaining there for some time, darting about and emitting red, green and blue lights. These events were witnessed by several military personnel including the Deputy Base Commander who audio taped a dramatic commentary during his search and filed his official report outlining the events. However, other eye witnesses spoke of even more fantastic happenings including a 30 ft wide 20 ft tall vehicle landing in a nearby field.

TRH Pictures

RAF/USAF Bentwaters/ Lakenheath, Suffolk
13 August 1956
An uncorrelated target was picked up over the North Sea heading toward the airfield at a speed of over 4,000 mph. Twenty miles inland it disappeared.

At the same time, a second contact was made with a group of slow moving targets and a T-33 fighter was directed to intercept, but without radar it was unable to find them. The targets hovered for 10 to 15 minutes, then began moving again, hovered briefly, then disappeared off the screens.

Later, a Venom fighter was scrambled. The target was tracked by separate ground systems and the interceptor was vectored towards it. As the Venom closed in, its own radar obtained a 'lock,' but the pilot lost contact. Ground staff advised the pilot that the UFO was now behind him and appeared to be giving chase. A second Venom was scrambled but before it arrived, the UFO had disappeared.

Aldershot, Hampshire
12 August 1983
A local historian and keen angler noticed a vivid light moving towards him as he fished on a canal bank. The bright light went out, but he was still aware of some illumination. Suddenly two, four-feet-tall beings approached and beckoned him to follow them. Amazingly he did, and found himself climbing into a 40ft disc. He was made to stand under an amber light for minutes before being told: "You can go. You are too old and infirm for our purposes."

Pennines, 8-9 miles SE Manchester Airport
6 January 1995
A Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, encountered a high speed, wedge-shaped craft as it approached Manchester airport on a flight from Milan. The captain reported that the UFO had small white lights and a black stripe down one side and flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot involuntarily ducked. The crew had it in sight for a total of about two seconds. There was no apparent sound or wake.

C3

9 JUL 1997

Section 40
[redacted]
Nr Bangor
Section 40

28 May 1997

Mrs Betty Williams, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mrs Williams,

I would like to bring to your attention an article that I recently read in the June issue of FOCUS magazine.

The article referred to a number of UFO incidents at RAF bases among other places and I would be indebted to you if you would make representations on my behalf to the Ministry of Defence and ask them to release all information relating to these incidents.

Specifically, I am interested in .-

1. The incident involving the former Home Secretary in the early hours of the 8th March this year.
2. The wave of sightings in the early hours of 31st March 1993.
3. The RAF Neatishead incident of October/November 1980.
4. The RAF/USAF Woodbridge/Bentwaters incident of 27-29th December 1980.
5. TheRAF/USAF Bentwaters/Lakenheath incident of 13th August 1956.
6. The Manchester Airport Incident of 6th January 1995.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40
[redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Bangor
Gwynedd

26 May, 1997

RECEIVED
- 3 JUN 1997

Betty Williams, MP
House of Commons
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Madam:

I would like to draw your attention to a recent article in *Focus* Magazine (June 1997, p. 70-1) which referred to a number of UFO incidents.

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Section 40 [redacted]

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Section 40
[redacted]
Bethesda
Gwynedd
Section 40

RECEIVED
16 MAY 1997

The Right Hon. Betty Williams, MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

13/05/97

Dear Mrs Williams

I have enclosed a recent article in The Folkestone Herald which indicates that Michael Howard's house was "buzzed" by a UFO.

I wish to express my indignance and outrage at this incident not having been broadcasted or printed by the national newsmedia, as it should be in the national interest by virtue of the security issues involved.

I hope that you will raise this matter in Parliament.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter and may I also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your successful election to this constituency.

Yours Faithfully

Section 40
[redacted]

Section 40
[redacted]

Spaceships, aliens and the Home Sec

UFO'S spotted over Shepway could have been looking for Home Secretary, Michael Howard, experts have warned.

By Sarah Hall

Following reports of mystery aircraft sightings in New Romney and Burmarsh in last week's *Herald*, Chris Rolfe, co-ordinator of UFOMEK, has highlighted the closeness of the sightings to the Shepway MP's home near the old Lympne Castle ruins.

And he fears that the position of the sightings is more than just coincidence.

Mr Rolfe cautioned: "It would seem the UFO was totally disinterested in Sophie, the girl who reported it and watched it for quite a long time.

"This certainly makes it seem like it had a purpose and has left me wondering if it's purpose had something to do with Mr Howard."

However Mr Rolfe was amazed to learn that Mr Howard's party agent knew all about the UFO.

He said: "I phoned Mr Howard's party agent in Folkestone and asked whether Mr Howard had seen anything strange I was immediately asked if I meant the UFO.

"The story in last week's *Herald* only said Donkey Street as the sight of the spotting.

"Donkey Street is a very long road and the report did not state which end the UFO was seen at - so it seems very odd that those close to Mr Howard already knew that it was near his house."

And now Mr Rolfe and UFOMEK would like to see some questions answered..

"I would like to know whether anyone spotted any strange men poking about around the area afterwards or whether Mr Howard's security system was activated in any way.

"The whole story is creating a lot of interest all over England and when you think of the implications it is quite easy to see why.

"I would love to know what the Government think of a strange aircraft being spotted near to the home of one of its senior cabinet ministers."

Sophie Wadleigh, of Shepherds Walk, Hythe, who saw the large object in the sky while driving home in the early hours of Saturday, March 8 said: "The UfO I saw was a large triangular shaped craft with bright lights running all round it's edge - it was above the field which lays directly opposite the turn off to Donkey Street in Burmarsh.

"When you have seen something like that you have to ask yourself why was it there - and maybe the Home secretary was the reason."

When the *Herald* contacted Mr Howard's office he was unavailable for comment.

through her window, and when she 76381.

RECEIVED
1 3 MAY 1997

Section 40
c/o
Bangor
Section 40

4 May, 1997

Betty Williams MP
House of Commons
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Madam:

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your success in the recent General Election. I am happy to see you representing this constituency in Parliament.

Over the last eighteen months, myself and a number of friends have been looking into the subject of unidentified flying objects. Our enquiries have taken us to the Public Record Office, The Civil Aviation Authority and The Ministry of Defence (see enclosures). I am sure you will agree, the enclosures make interesting reading.

I understand a petition was presented to Parliament on the 17 March requesting an independent civilian commission undertake a full study of this subject.

I would be very grateful to you if you could raise this matter at the next session of Parliament. In addition, I have enclosed some questions that I hope you will see fit to table in The Commons.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Enclosure: (i) Mandatory Occurrence Reports (ex CAA); (ii)AIR 20/9320 & AIR 20/9321 extracts (ex PRO); (iii)Halt Report (courtesy of Section 40, MoD).

Questions to be tabled in Parliament

To ask the Prime Minister and The Secretary of State for Defence, (i) if they will make it their policy to allocate resources to researching extraterrestrial phenomena with a broader scientific base given the numerous incursions into UK airspace by unidentified craft and (ii) if they will agree that the argument that these incidents are of no defence significance can no longer be sustained.

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, does his Department accept that based on evidence such as that given by Lt Colonel Charles Halt on The Rendlesham Forest Incident, material contained in numerous Mandatory Occurrence Reports reported to The Civil Aviation Authority and the fact that his Department receives up to five-hundred reports a year relating to unidentified craft that (i) the UK airspace has been penetrated on occasion by unidentified craft whose performance characteristics far exceed cutting edge technology and (ii) that the best available evidence supports the hypothesis that these craft are of extraterrestrial origin; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department will he make it his policy to establish a Civil Defence capability of the United Kingdom to accommodate more detailed reporting of unidentified craft; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (i) How many reports of unidentified craft have police forces dealt with in the last (a) year, (b) five years, (c) twenty years, (ii) how many of these incidents were witnessed by police officers and (iii) were any of these incidents recorded (a) on camera or (b) as video footage and (iv) if recorded, are they available for public scrutiny; and if he will make a statement.

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, (i) does his Department acknowledge that the United Kingdom airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by craft of unknown design and origin whose flight and manoeuvrability far exceed current state of the art aircraft design and (ii) how many records of near misses and sightings of unidentified craft in United Kingdom airspace by civilian airliners does his department hold; and if he will make a statement.

AIR 20/9320 35087
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3A 5/4/57

SECRET

D.D.I.(Tech)/S290/

S.6 (Mr. West)

With reference to your loose minute 511/S.6 dated 11th April, 1957, it is regretted that due to an oversight the West Freugh, Wigtownshire incident was listed twice; once as a newspaper report and once as a radar sighting under investigation. The error in listing the incidents means that there were fifteen reports this year. The newspaper reports were, in fact, only two and not three as given.

2. The four reports, amplifications of which you require, are as follows.

Radar sightings under investigation

(a) A report was received from Royal Air Force Church Lawford on 26th March, 1957 of a sighting of an unusual nature. The object move at a speed timed as exceeding 1400 m.p.h. This in itself was unusual as the object had accelerated to this speed from a stationary position. No explanation has yet been found for this sighting but supplementary report, including a copy of the radar plot, was requested and has been received from Church Lawford this afternoon.

(b) Signals from Royal Air Force Stations Bempton and Lakenheath on 19th March reported unusual responses which did not resemble those from conventional aircraft. Aircraft sent to find the object made no contact with anything in the area of the response.

The meteorological office are at present trying to find whether any unusual phenomena were observed by their stations in that area.

It is possible that the response was due to a seasonal phenomena known as "Angels" and "Anaprop" which is a result of Inversion and Reflection from the Ionosphere.

(c) Ministry of Supply, Bomb Trials Unit, West Freugh, Wigtownshire picked up an unusual response from an almost stationary object on 4th April 1957; the object was tracked for thirty-six minutes continually increasing in speed while losing height. Enquiries, so far, reveal that no service nor commercial aircraft were in the vicinity at the time. We are at present trying to find out whether a private aircraft might have been in the area at the time.

The possibility of a balloon has been eliminated because the object was proceeding against the wind.

Newspaper Report

(d) A review by the 'Daily Worker' of a book recently published on German wartime weapons contained references to a German flying saucer which was flown at a speed of 1250 m.p.h. to a height of 40,000 ft.

3. The Wigtownshire report referred to in para 5 of our minute 3 of folder P.Q. 193/57 is the same incident as reported in the news cuttings forwarded with your minute and returned herewith.

4. It is unfortunate that the Wigtownshire radar incident fell into the hands of the press. The two other radar incidents have not been made public and reached us by means of official secret channels. We suggest that S. of S. does not specifically refer to these incidents as radar sightings. We suggest that in answering the original question S. of S. might reply:-

"Of the fifteen incidents reported this year ten have been identified as conventional objects, two contain insufficient information for identification and three are under investigation."

5. If supplementary questions are asked the S. of S. might wish to refer to the answer given to Major Wall on 4th May 1955. Reports received since that date do not suggest that there need be any change in the answer given at that time.

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AIR 20/9321 35087

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D.D.I.(Tech)/C.290/3/

Unidentified Objects at West Freugh

1. On the morning of April 4th radar operators at West Freugh detected unidentified objects on the screens of their radars. A summary of this incident is given below.

2. The object was first observed as a stationary return on the screen of a rdar at Balscalloch. Although its range remained appreciably constant for about 10 minutes its height appeared to alter from about 50,000 to 70,000 ft. A second radar was switched on and detected the "object" at the same range and height.

3. The radar sets used were capble of following objects automatically besides being manually operated. The information is obtained in the form of polar coordinates but it can be converted to give plan position indication together with heights. This information can be fed into aplotting board which displays the position of the object by means of an electronically operated pen, while the height is shown on a meter.

4. The unidentified object was tracked on the plotting table, each radar being switched on to the table in turn to check for discrepancies. After remaining at one spot for about ten minutes the pen moved slowly in a N.E. direction, and gradually increased speed. A speed check was taken which showed a ground speed of 70 m.p.h., the height was then 54,000 ft.

5. At this time another radar station 20 miles away, equipped with the same type ofradars, was asked to search for the "object". A echo was picked up at the range and bearing given and the radar was "locked-on".

6. After the "object" has travelled about 20 miles it made a very sharp turn and proceeded to move S.E. at the same time increasing speed. Here the reports of the two radar stations differ in details. The wo at Balscalloch tracked an"object" at about 50,000 ft at a speed of about 240 m.p.h. while the other followed an "object" or "objects" at 14,000 ft. As the "objects" travelled towards the second radar site the operator detected four "objects" moving in line astern about 4,000 yards from each other. This observation was confirmed later by the other radars, for when the object they were plotting passed out of range they were able to detect four other smaller objects before they too passed out of range.

7. It was noted by the radar operators that the sizes of the echoes were considerably larger than would be expected from normal aircraft. In fact they considered that the size was nearer that of a ship's echo.

8. It is deduced from these reports that altogether five objects were detected by the three radars. At least one of these rose to an altitude of 70,000 ft while remaining appreciably stationary in azimuth and range. All of these objects appeared to be capable of speeds of about 240 m.p.h. Nothing can be said of physical construction of the objects except that they were very effective reflectors of radar signals, and that they must have been either of considerable size or else constructed to be especially good reflectors.

9. There were not known to be any aircraft in the vicinity nor were there any meteorological balloons. Even if balloons had been in the area these would not account for the sudden change of direction and the movement at high speed against the prevailing wind.

10. Another point which has been considered is that the type of radar used is capable of locking onto heavily charged clouds. Clouds of this nature could extend up to the heights in question and cause abnormally large echoes on the radar screens. It is not thought however that this incident was due to such phenomena.

/11.

11. It is concluded that the incident was due to the presence of five reflecting objects of unidentified type and origin. It is considered unlikely that they were conventional aircraft, meteorological balloons or charged clouds.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	BRITANNIA	G-BAZG	NR LEEDS	5 JUL 78	7802646F	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED BRIGHT LIGHT SEEN 11 O'CLOCK ABOVE

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727 -100	DAN-AIR	G-BAJW	VICENZA	19 SEP 79	7904369X	P

CAA Narrative:

UFO OBSERVED PASSING 200FT BELOW A C
MILAN CONTROL REPORTED "NO TRAFFIC.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BCDA	VICENZA	11 JUN 80	8003311C	P

CAA Narrative:

UFO PASSED CLOSE TO SUBJECT AIRCRAFT
OBJECT APPEARED TO BE LIKE A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DROP TANK.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G-BHNE	LYON	13 FEB 81	8100542C	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FOREIGN OBJECT SEEN ON A C RADAR
A SIZEABLE OVAL SHAPED TARGET APPEARED ON RADAR CENTRE-LINE AT LIMIT OF RANGE
TRACKING TOWARDS A/C AT VERY HIGH SPEED.NO VISUAL SIGHTING MADE.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B727	DAN-AIR	G -BKCG	DINKELSBUHI	12 JUN 82	8201614C	S

CAA Narrative:

LARGE TRANSLUCENT OBJECT, APPROX 500FT LONG, OBSERVED AT 41000FT.
ATCC REQUESTED SUBJECT A/C TO INVESTIGATE THIS OBJECT WHICH WAS FOUND TO HAVE
THE FORM OF A DOUBLE RECTANGLE SURMOUNTED BY A GLOBE (EGG SHAPE) CROWNED BY A
SILVER CONE. OBJECT OBSERVED BY ALL ON BOARD.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 200	DAN-AIR	G -BKAP	BRINDISI	21 JUN 82	8201671B	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SIGHTED BY PILOTS.
OBJECT PASSED DOWN LEFT HAND SIDE AT SAME HEIGHT AS A/C (FL230) APPROX 2 MILES AWAY. BLACK SHINY DOUGHNUT SHAPE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CAR. OBJECT WAS TUMBLING & JUDGED TO BE STATIONARY.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
BAC 111 500	BCAL	G -AWYS	FLORENCE	18 AUG 83	8302525A	P

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SEEN BY CREW.
LARGE BLACK OBJECT, BALLOON SHAPED WITH LARGE WHITE SPOT ON IT, OBSERVED 10NM SE OF FIRENZA. NO ATTACHMENTS TO OBJECT. SUPP INFO: ITALIAN CAA REPLIED NO MET BALLOON COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE INDICATED PLACE OR TIME.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737	BRITANNIA	G -AVRL	AMBOISE	9 AUG 84	8402477A	P

CAA Narrative:

GREEN FLARE SEEN DESCENDING LEFT TO RIGHT STRAIGHT AHEAD AT FL300.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
TRISLANDER	KONDAIR	G -BDOS	IPSWICH	24 AUG 84	8402680D	P

CAA Narrative:

UK REPORTABLE ACCIDENT : A/C STRUCK OBJECT IN CRUISE. PROPELLER, FUSELAGE, COWLING & CONTROL RUNS DAMAGED.
THE A/C WAS FLYING IN SLIGHT TURBULENCE WHEN A BUMP WAS FELT. JUST BEFORE DESCENT THE RIGHT ENGINE CONTROL WAS FOUND TO BE SEIZED SO AN ASYMMETRIC APPROACH & LANDING WAS EXECUTED. ON INSPECTION IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE LEFT PROPELLER HAD STRUCK AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT, PROPELLING IT THROUGH THE CABIN ROOF, WITH A PIECE EXITING THROUGH A WINDOW. THERE WERE SEVERAL HOLES IN THE FUSELAGE & DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE, AILERON & RUDDER TRIM CABLES. THREE PIECES OF FOREIGN METALLIC OBJECT WERE FOUND, INCLUDING A SMALL CYLINDRICAL MAGNET. THE UFO HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED. (AIB BULLETIN 10/84). SEE DIGEST 84/D/43.
CAA CLOSURE: NO INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING NATURE OR ORIGIN OF UFO.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
HERALD	AIR UK	G -ASKK	AIRWAY W17	20 DEC 84	8404256G	P

CAA Narrative:

BRIGHT WHITE LIGHTS ARCED ACROSS A/C TRACK. NO RANGE ACTIVITY IN CHANNEL. LIGHTS ALSO SEEN BY ANOTHER A/C.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
NOT APP	NOT APP	ZZ -ZZ	READING	26 OCT 84	8404325C	S

CAA Narrative:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT : BRIGHT LIGHT 65DEG ELEV, 200DEG T, DURATION 7 MINUTES.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B707 323C	TRADEWINDS	G -SAIL		24 JAN 85	8500208J	P

CAA Narrative:

FLASH OF LIGHT APPROX SIZE OF FOOTBALL SEEN AT FL330 STRAIGHT AHEAD SOUND OF DEBRIS HITTING A/C APPROX 3MIN LATER.NO DAMAGE TO A/C DISCOVERED.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
PIPER PA31 350	GROSVENOR AV	G -POLO	5427N 0530W	5 FEB 86	8600373J	P

CAA Narrative:

BRIGHT LIGHT PASSED UPWARDS IN FRONT OF A/C
A/C WAS CROSSING EAST COAST OF IRELAND ON DESCENT.LIGHT TRAVELLED TOWARDS A/C FROM A 2.30 POSITION RANGE APPROX 1 1/2 MILES AND PASSED 1000FT ABOVE TRAVELLING RIGHT TO LEFT 1 MILE AHEAD. BURST OF GREEN LIGHT OBSERVED AT PEAK OF ITS BALLISTIC FLIGHT.A/C HT 1450FT. CAA CLOSURE-POSSIBLY FLARE FIRED AT ABOUT TIME OF OCC BY ALDERGROVE.PILOT CONSIDERED THIS UNLIKELY BUT NO OTHER EXPLANATION HAS EMERGED.NIL HAZARD-NFA.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B757 236	BA	G -BIKI	ATHENS/KOR	3 AUG 86	8602578C	P

CAA Narrative:

RADOME FOUND DENTED CAPT REPORTS HEARING A 'TINNY BANG' NEAR HIS FEET BANG HEARD AT 9000FT,SPEED 300KTS,VMC.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B767	BRITANNIA	G-BKPW	BELGRADE	21 AUG 86	8602821J	P

CAA Narrative:

NON UK AIRMISS MISSILE TYPE OBJECT PASSED 500FT ABOVE ON RECIPROCAL TRACK
A/C HEADING 290DEG MAG AT FL390.OBJECT WAS BLACK,CIGAR SHAPED,WITHOUT WINGS.
BEGRADE RADAR INFORMED ON RTF. CAA CLOSURE-FOREIGN AUTHORITY ADVISED.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	ZZ-ZZ	STANSTED	12 OCT 86	8603461H	P

CAA Narrative:

ATC OCC POSSIBLE INFRINGEMENT OF STANSTED SRZ BY UNIDENTIFIED A/C
CAPT OF A/C ON APPROACH FOR R/W23 REPORTED FLASHING & ANTI-COLLISION LIGHTS
AT APPROX 2000FT, RANGE 1.5 MILES.NOTHING OBSERVED ON RADAR AT THIS RANGE BUT
TRAFFIC PRESENT ON SAME RELATIVE BEARING AT 20 MILES DESCENDING FROM
FL180.THIS TRAFFIC UNDER CONTROL OF LATCC & OPERATING IN CONTROLLED AIRSPACE.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
OTHER	NOT APP	ZZ-ZZ	HATFIELD	15 JUN 89	8902130D	L

CAA Narrative:

'MODEL A/C' FLEW APPROX 5FT ABOVE HELICOPTER ROTOR DISC
IN CRUISE AT 2400FT HELICOPTER 'BUZZED' BY 4FT LONG CYLINDRICAL OBJECT WITH
WINGS.THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT AROUND THIS AREA IS KNOWN TO ELSTREE OPRS & IS
BELIEVED TO BE DUE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF A LOCAL MODEL A/C CLUB.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B747	BA	G -AWNC	TOKYO CTRL	1 JUL 89	8902470B	P

CAA Narrative:

NON UK ATC INC OTHER A/C BELIEVED SEEN AHEAD UNKNOWN TO ATC
CLIMBING THROUGH FL190 LIGHTS SEEN AHEAD BELIEVED TO BE LANDING LIGHTS OF
ANOTHER A/C.30DEG RIGHT TURN MADE, LIGHTS PASSED TO LHS,BELIEVED AT FL200.
CAA CLOSURE:JAPANESE REPORT FOUND NO TRACE OF OTHER TRAFFIC.NO FURTHER CAA
ACTION POSSIBLE.

A/C Type	Operator	Regn	Location	Date	Occnum	P/Pub
B737 400	BMA	G -OBMG	BELFAST	11 NOV 89	8904477X	L

CAA Narrative:

UFO PASSED ABOVE A/C AT HEIGHT OF 11200FT & BURST INTO CASCADE OF LIGHTS
UFO HEADING APPROX DUE WEST - A/C HEADING 310DEG.UFO BURST LESS THAN 500

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81st COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD 13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

Lt Col. Halt's Report on the Rendlesham Forest Incident

105

Section 40 [redacted]

Bangor
Gwynedd

5 May 1997

RECEIVED
9 MAY 1997

The Hon. Betty Williams MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mrs Williams,

I have been reading extracts from a book on the subject of UFOs called "Open Skies-Closed Minds" by a Mr Nick Pope.

I found the material quite incredible, especially coming from a civil servant in The Ministry of Defence.

What I find quite inconceivable is that the government continue to deny or even acknowledge the existence of UFOs in spite of all the evidence.

For The Ministry of Defence to claim that incidents such as that at Rendlesham Forest in 1980 are of no defence significance is totally outrageous and I feel this policy needs to be reversed.

I hope you will consider raising these issues in Parliament.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS [illegible]

APO NEW YORK [illegible]

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CO

13 Jan 81

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TO: RAF/CC

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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

644/4
4

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
30/07/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PQ 0826i - MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP -	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 30/07/97 at 13:12 Delivered: 30/07/97 at 13:12
To: AUS(S+S)
CC: Hd of CS(RM),SEC(AS)2A (2)
Ref: 399
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PQ 0826i - MR IEUAN WYN JONES MP - DEADLINE FOR REPLY 15.00 30 JULY 1997
Text: Can I please ask you to again authorise another PQ. Hd CS(RM) and Sec(AS)2 have agreed the answer and background note.

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [ ] Codes [ ]

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**15.00 ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0826i
PQ TYPE	:	WRITTEN
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	NO
MINISTER REPLYING	:	PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE - USofS
LEAD BRANCH	:	CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	Sec(AS)

MP'S DETAIL: MR IEUAN WYN JONES (PLAID CYMRU) (YNYS MON)

QUESTION

16. To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons his Department withdrew AIR 2/16918 from the Public Record Office; which offices within his Department consulted the document; on what date the document was received from and returned to the Public Record Office; and if he will make a statement. [12239]

DRAFTED BY: Section 40, HEAD CS(RM)1 - Ext Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : Section 40, AUS(S+S) - Ext Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions, and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER

I will write to the hon Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 0826i

AIR 2/16918 is a file, dating from 1961-63, consisting of unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry by members of the public.

We believe the PQ has been tabled because a constituent of Mr Jones believes the Ministry of Defence and the Public Record Office has given conflicting or misleading advice in respect of the whereabouts of this file during 1996.

Part of this problem occurred because of a simple clerical error on the part of CS(RM). However, we consider it would be appropriate to place on record a full report of the facts in order to set the record straight. In the circumstances a detailed reply in the form of a letter to the MP would be more appropriate on this occasion.

Consultation with Sec(AS) and the PRO is required and we would hope to provide a draft reply within the next week or so.

64/4

DATE	TO	SUBJECT	CODES
30/07/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PQ 0826i	[ ]

Sent: 30/07/97 at 12:40
To: Hd of CS(RM)1
CC:

Ref: 1274
Subject: PQ 0826i

Text: Please see attached.

Priority: Urgent
Reply Request [ ]
View Acknowledge [*]
Delivery Acknowledge [*]
Attachments [1]
Codes [ ]

Iain,

Attached a few suggested tinkers to your draft. Please note in particular the PQ number at the top of your draft answer has been incorrectly typed as 9826i - it should be 0826i.

Happy for you to take charge of the draft reply and would be grateful if you would draw together the background on all that happened. It is essential I think to include the fact that the PRO put the file back in the wrong slot once it came back from the photopool and that it was languishing in the PRO all the time. If you CHOT the first draft over we will include a couple of paras on the characters involved in this issue, ie. Section 40 (the constituent who most likely put Mr Wyn Jones up to this) and Section 40 Section 40 etc.

Happy to discuss further with you of course.

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**15.00 ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0826i (IG to note)
PQ TYPE	:	WRITTEN
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	NO
MINISTER REPLYING	:	PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE - USofS
LEAD BRANCH	:	CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	Sec(AS)

MP'S DETAIL: MR IEUAN WYN JONES (PLAID CYMRU) (YNYS MON)

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DRAFTED BY: Section 40, HEAD CS(RM)1 - Ext Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : Section 40, HEAD CS DIV - Ext Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions, and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER

I will write to **the** hon. Member and a copy of **the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.**

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 0826i

AIR 2/16918 is a file, dating from 1961-63, consisting of unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry by members of the public.

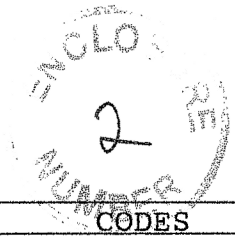
We believe the PQ has been tabled because a constituent of Mr Jones believes the Ministry of Defence and the Public Record Office has given conflicting or misleading advice in respect of the whereabouts of this file during 1996.

Part of the problem occurred because of a simple clerical error on the part of CS(RM). However, we consider it would be appropriate to place on record a full report of the facts in order to set the record straight. In the circumstances a detailed reply in the form of a letter to the MP would be more appropriate on this occasion.

Consultation with Sec(AS) and the PRO is required and we **would hope to provide a draft reply within the next week or so.**

64/4

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 2



DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
30/07/97	Hd of CS(RM)1	PQ Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones MP -	[ ]

Intended:
Sent: 30/07/97 at 11:07 Delivered: 30/07/97 at 11:07
To: SEC(AS)2A (2)
CC:
Ref: 394
From: Hd of CS(RM)1 Auth by:
Subject: PQ Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones MP - Accounting for a "ufo" file

Text: Section 40, proposed answer and background note attached. I have assumed CS(RM) will retain lead responsibility, but if anyone else would like to volunteer!!!

Section 40

Priority: Urgent SEE PAGE Attachments [1]
Reply Request [ ] View Acknowledge [*] Codes [ ]

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DATE FOR RETURN	:	**15.00 ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 1997**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 9826i
PQ TYPE	:	WRITTEN
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	NO
MINISTER REPLYING	:	PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE - USofS
LEAD BRANCH	:	CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	Sec(AS)

MP'S DETAIL: MR IEUAN WYN JONES (PLAID CYMRU) (YNYS MON)

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DRAFTED BY: Section 40, HEAD CS(RM)1 - Ext Section 40
AUTHORISED BY : Section 40, HEAD CS DIV - Ext Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions, and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER

I will write to hon Member and place a copy of my ~~reply~~ letter in the House of Commons ~~Library due course~~.

BACKGROUND NOTE TO PQ 0826i

AIR 2/16918 is a file, dating from 1961-63, consisting of unidentified flying object sightings reported to the then Air Ministry by members of the public.

We believe the PQ has been tabled because a constituent of Mr Jones believes the Ministry of Defence and the Public Record Office has given conflicting or misleading advice in respect of the whereabouts of this file during 1996.

Although the explanation for the apparent confusion is a simple clerical error on the part of CS(RM), a fully, more considered reply in the form of a letter to the MP is more appropriate on this occasion.

Consultation with Sec(AS) and the PRO is required and we propose submitting a draft reply within the next two weeks or so.

place on record a full report of the facts in order to set the record straight. In the circumstances a full detailed

64/4
ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

****
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED
****

DATE FOR RETURN 1997 (TODAY)	:	**15:00 ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY**
PQ REFERENCE	:	PQ 0826i
PQ TYPE	:	Written
SUPPLEMENTARIES REQUIRED?	:	No
MINISTER REPLYING	:	PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE - USofS
LEAD BRANCH:	:	CS(RM)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S)	:	*

- **The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs (DCI To Be Confirmed).**

- **Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.**

- **The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.**

- **If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.**

MP's DETAIL: MR IEUAN WYN JONES (PLAID CYMRU)(YNYS MON)

QUESTION

17|To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for what reasons his Department withdrew AIR 2/16918 from the Public Record Office; which offices within his Department consulted the document; on what date the document was received from and returned to the Public Record Office; and if he will make a statement. [12239]

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on

answering PQs are set out in (DCI To Be Confirmed) and can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : * TEL: *
AUTHORISED BY : * TEL: *
GRADE/RANK : *

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the following answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI {To Be Confirmed}), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 48/97).

ANSWER:

BACKGROUND NOTE: